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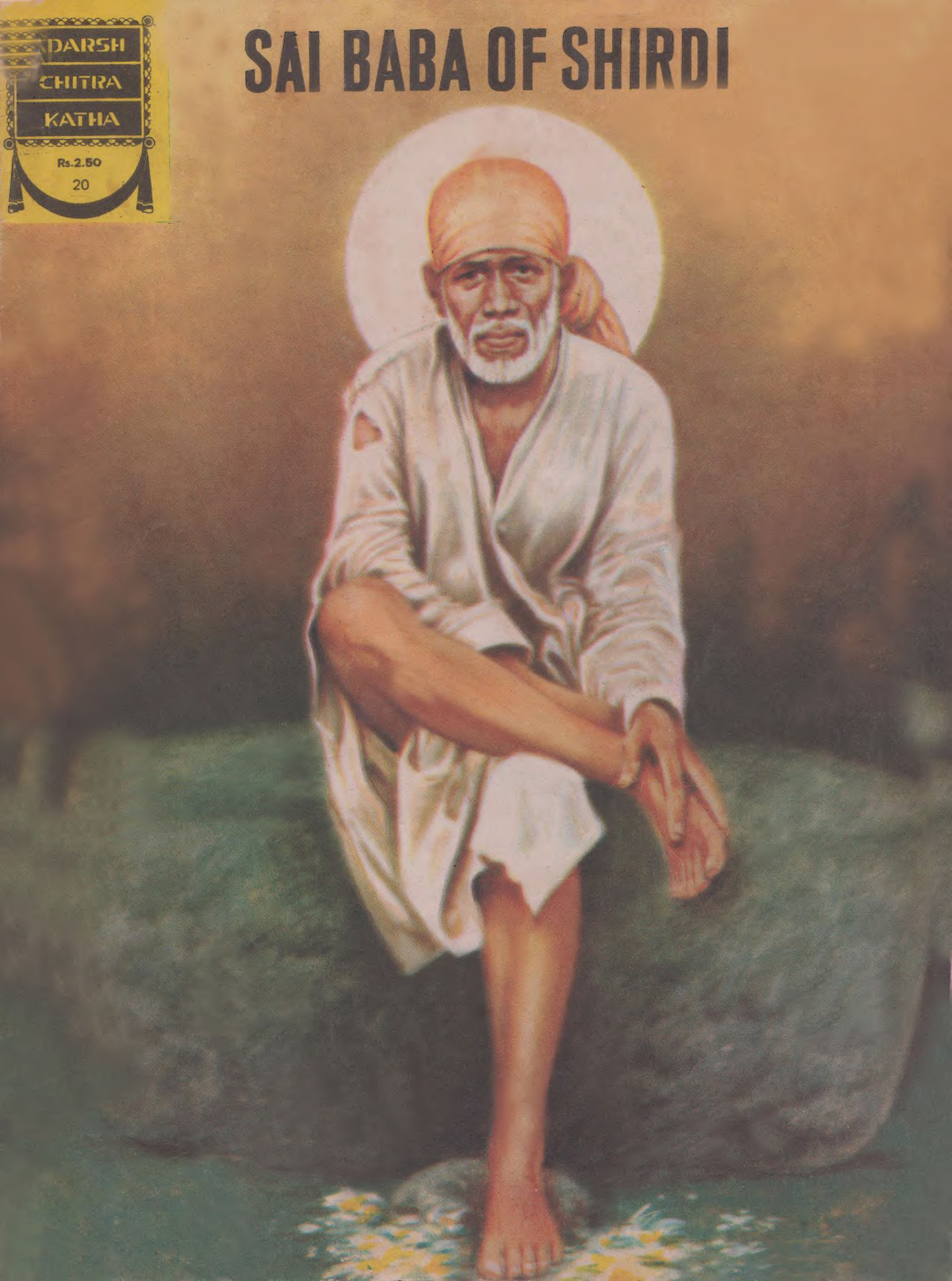
20

SAI BABA OF SHIRDI



Sai Baba lived in Shirdi, then an obscure and almost inaccessible village in Maharashtra. For well over sixty years he toiled selflessly and tirelessly for the good of suffering humanity and to bring about, through practice and precept, emotional and national integration by preaching universal brotherhood among people belonging to all religions, castes, creeds and sects. More than a spiritual guide and preceptor, he was a social reformer too in his own right. He was truly a modern and enlightened saint. He raised his voice fearlessly against superstition, social and religious taboos and dogmatism and above all religious bigotry and fanaticism. He gave little importance to rituals of any kind and was totally unorthodox and non-conformist in many ways. He exhorted his disciples to shun ostentation in every form and manner and lead a life of purity, simplicity and righteousness.

Some sixty two years ago, Sai Baba shed his mortal coil, but even today he is as active, helpful and solicitous of the welfare of his devotees as he was during his eventful lifetime. He used to say : "Even when I leave my earthly body, remember, I am eternally with you all. I will answer your prayers and fulfil your needs and wishes." The experiences and reminiscences of thousands of his devotees spread in every part of India and abroad bear eloquent testimony to his greatness, his unique and wondrous personality and his amazing, mysterious powers.

Many devotees have written numerous accounts of the life and teachings of this wondrous Saint. Devotees stand witness to the extremely interesting life that was his."Sai Satcharit" written originally in Marathi and later on translated in many Indian languages and in English, describes, most vividly, the "eternal" life of Sri Sai Baba.

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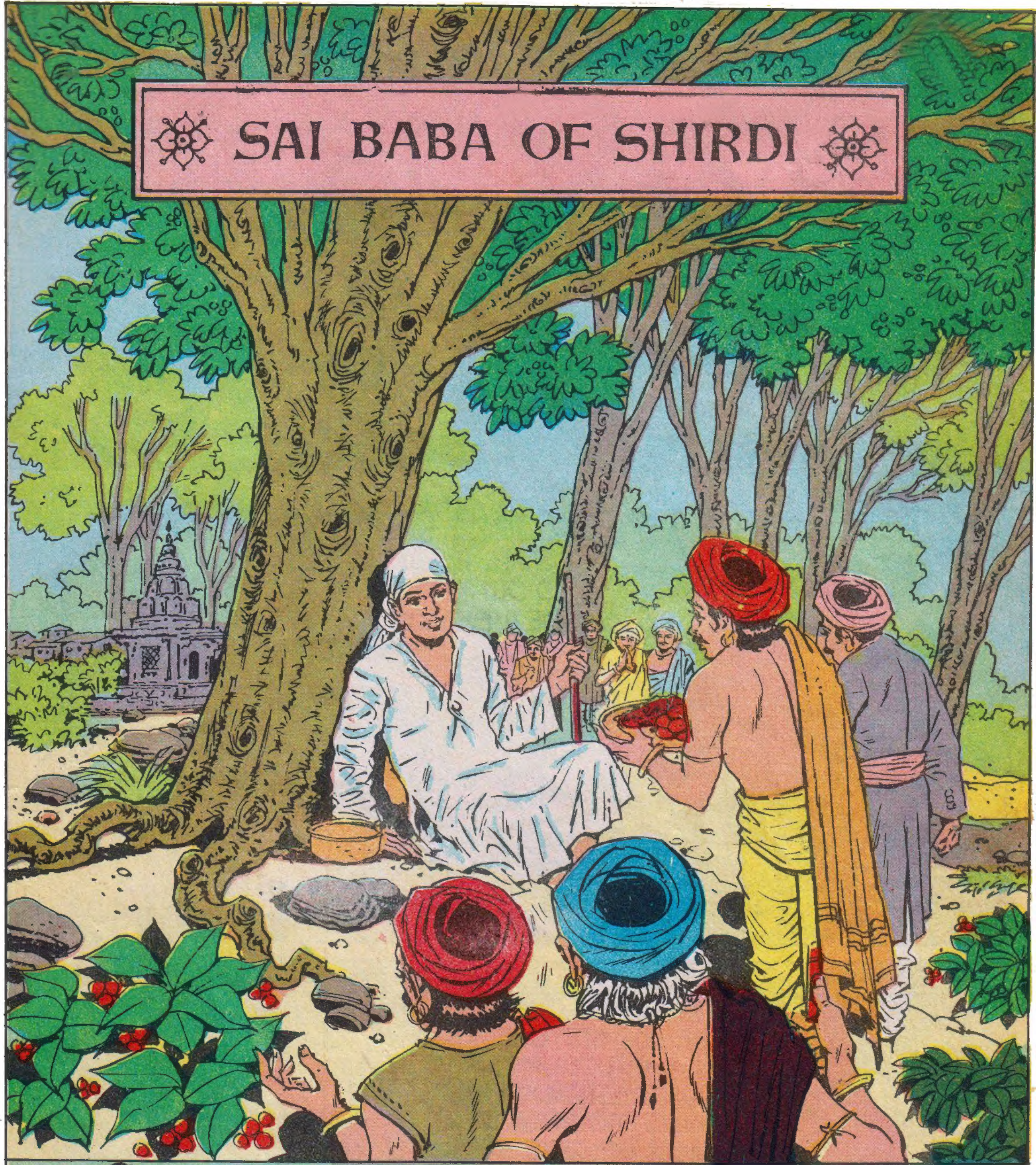
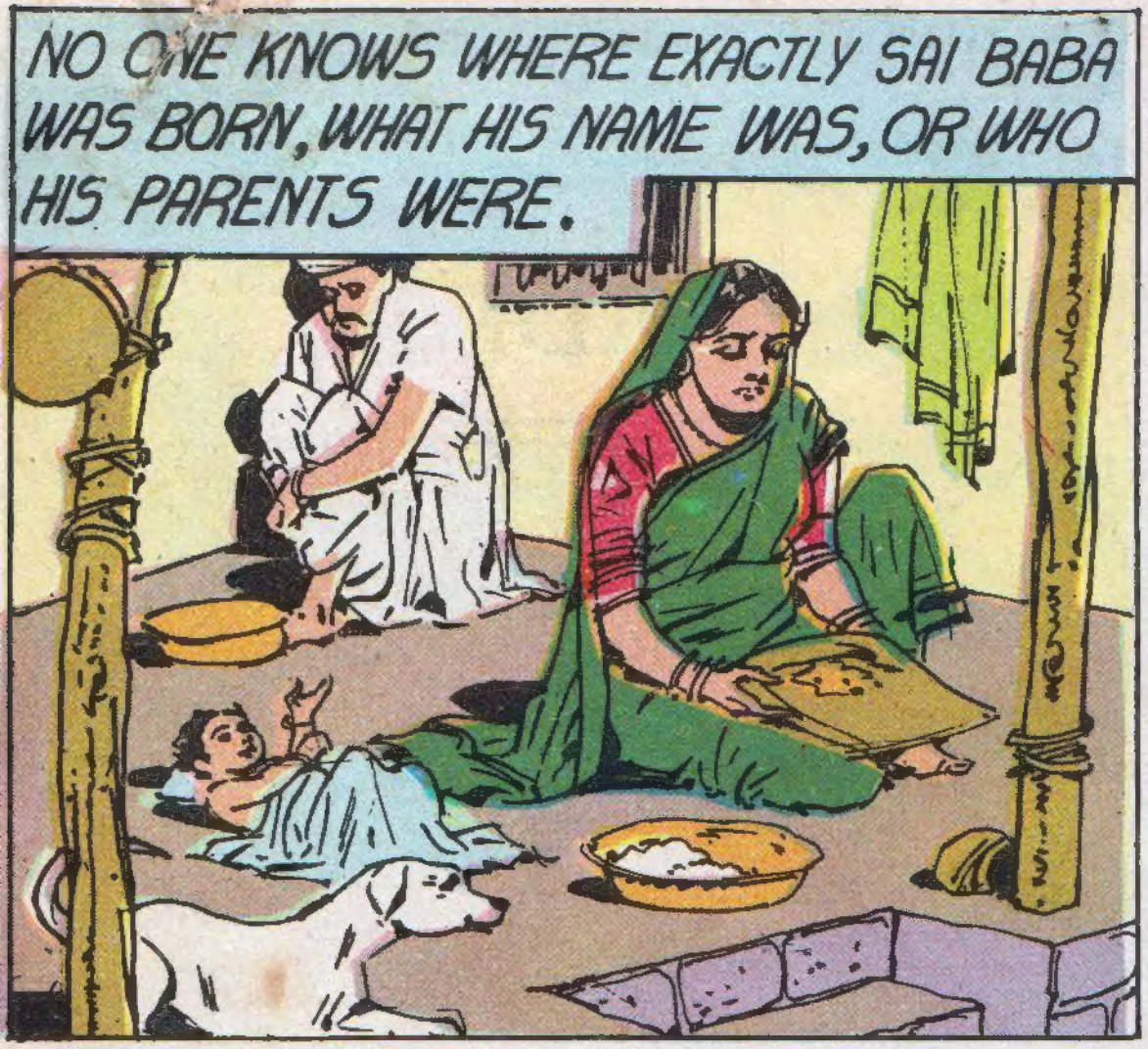
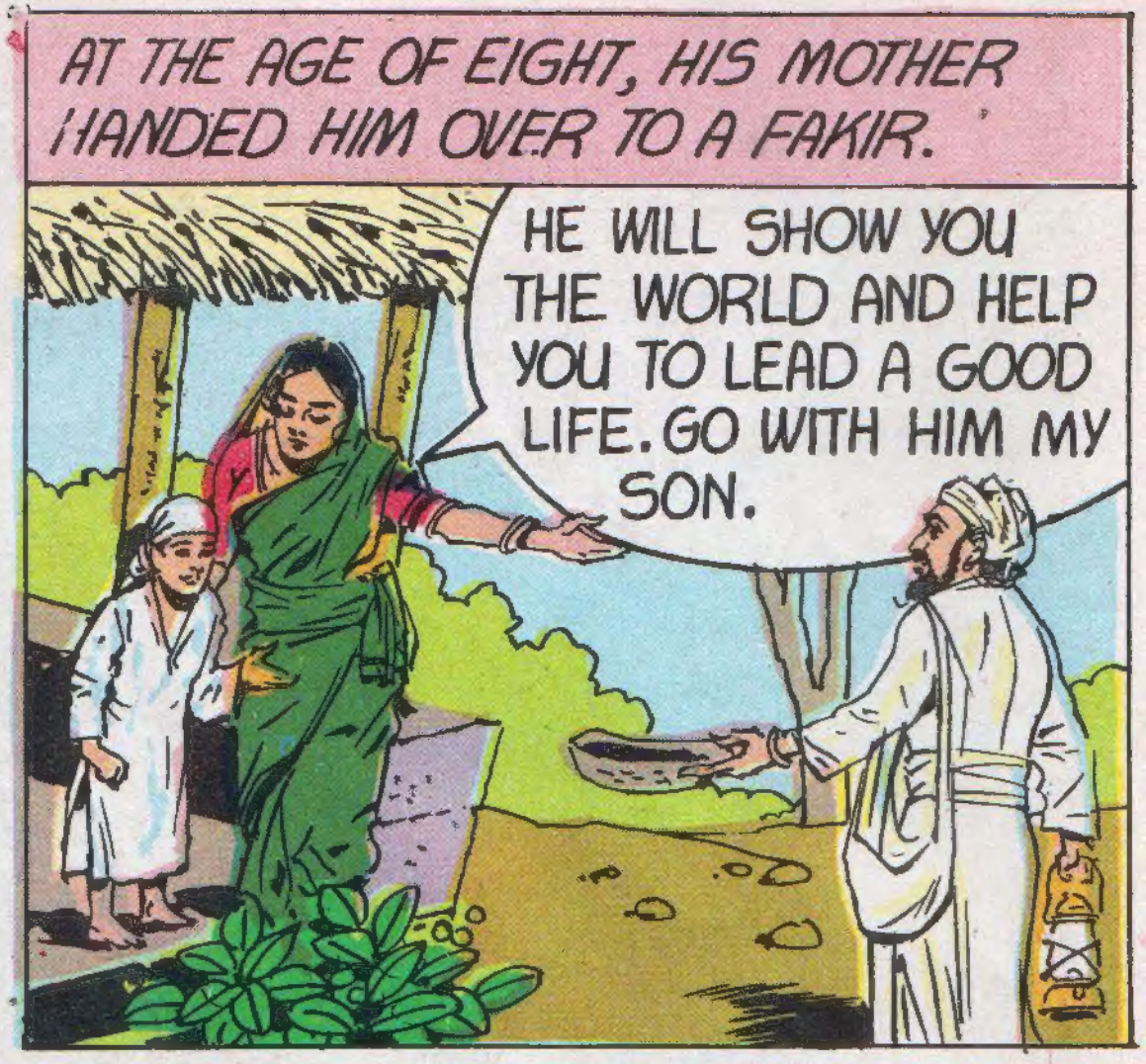
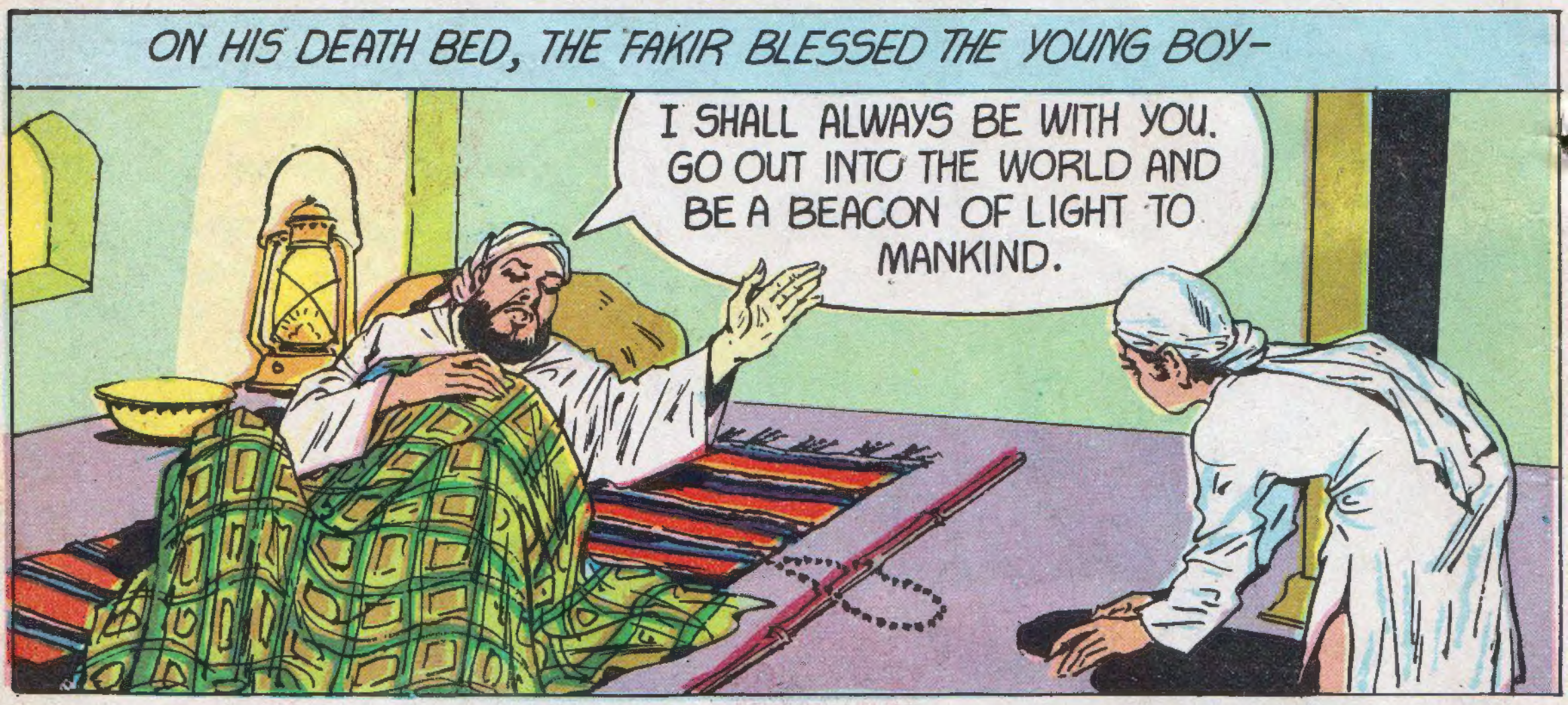
SAI BABA OF SHIRDI

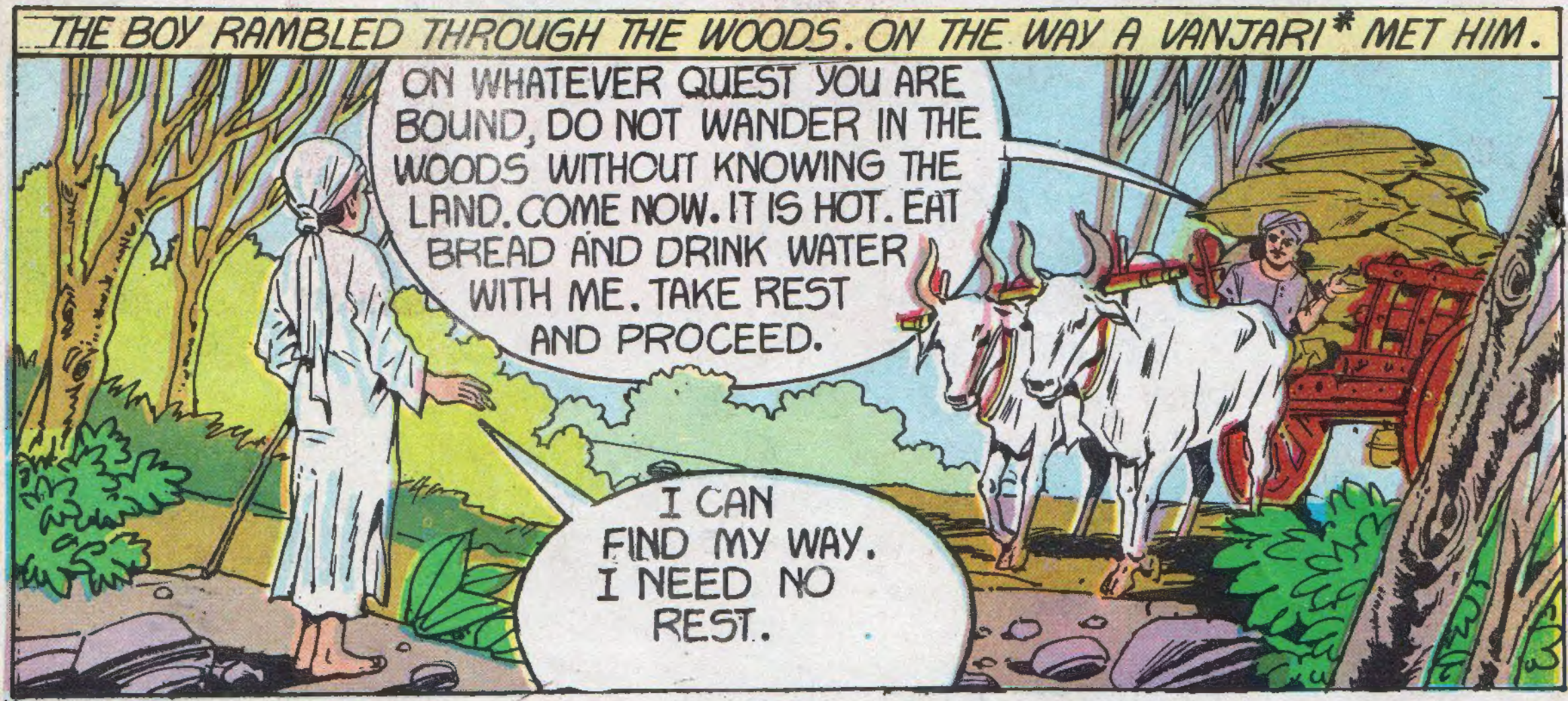


SAI BABA APPEARED ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE VILLAGE OF SHIRDI IN THE YEAR **1872** AS A YOUNG LAD OF FOURTEEN YEARS. HE LIVED UNDER A NEEM TREE, SLEPT ON THE BARE GROUND, TALKED TO NONE DURING THE DAY AND THE DARKNESS DID NOT SCARE HIM AT NIGHT. HE ATE WHATEVER WAS OFFERED TO HIM BY THE VILLAGERS.









*TRADER IN GRAINS ETC.

BUT THE YOUNG FAKIR LOST HIS WAY. HE WAS TIRED AND HUNGRY. SUDDENLY, HE SAW THE VANJARI AGAIN.

A GUIDE IS NECESSARY TO SHOW THE RIGHT WAY, AND NO QUEST CAN BE UNDERTAKEN ON AN EMPTY STOMACH.

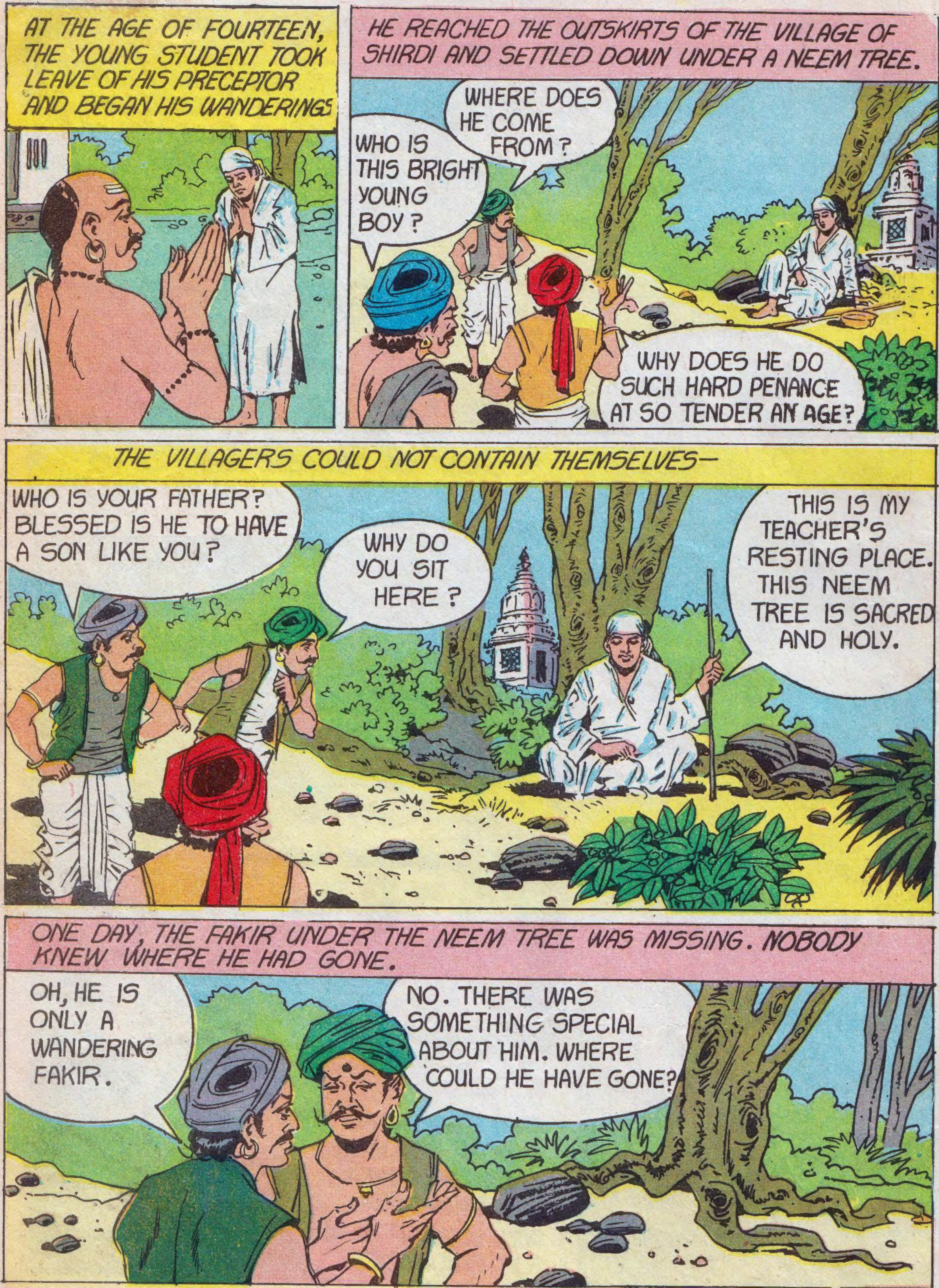
HE LOOKS ILLITERATE AND OF A LOW CASTE. YET HE IS SO FULL OF KINDNESS AND LOVE.

THE FAKIR ATE AND DRANK WHAT THE VANJARI OFFERED HIM. THEN, LO !

WOULD YOU LIKE TO COME WITH ME ? I SHALL SHOW YOU THE RIGHT WAY OF LIFE.

HE SPENT THE VALUABLE YEARS OF HIS CHILDHOOD LEARNING FROM HIS PRECEPTOR, VENKUSA BY NAME.

LISTEN CAREFULLY TO MY WORDS. YOU HAVE A GREAT TASK AHEAD OF YOU. MANY PEOPLE WILL LOOK UP TO YOU FOR GUIDANCE.


AT THE AGE OF FOURTEEN, THE YOUNG STUDENT TOOK LEAVE OF HIS PRECEPTOR AND BEGAN HIS WANDERINGS
HE REACHED THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE VILLAGE OF SHIRDI AND SETTLED DOWN UNDER A NEEM TREE.
WHO IS THIS BRIGHT YOUNG BOY?
WHERE DOES HE COME FROM?
WHY DOES HE DO SUCH HARD PENANCE AT SO TENDER AN AGE?
THE VILLAGERS COULD NOT CONTAIN THEMSELVES—
WHO IS YOUR FATHER? BLESSED IS HE TO HAVE A SON LIKE YOU?
WHY DO YOU SIT HERE?
THIS IS MY TEACHER'S RESTING PLACE. THIS NEEM TREE IS SACRED AND HOLY.
ONE DAY, THE FAKIR UNDER THE NEEM TREE WAS MISSING. NOBODY KNEW WHERE HE HAD GONE.
OH, HE IS ONLY A WANDERING FAKIR.
NO. THERE WAS SOMETHING SPECIAL ABOUT HIM. WHERE COULD HE HAVE GONE?

WANDERING IN THE DENSE JUNGLES, THE TIRED YOUNG FAKIR SAT DOWN TO REST. SUDDENLY-

I CAN'T FIND MY MARE. I AM DEAD TIRED ROAMING AROUND AND LOOKING FOR IT.

SEARCH THERE, NEAR THE NALA.

THE HORSE WAS NEAR THE NALA.

HOW DID HE KNOW? THIS IS NO ORDINARY FAKIR!

PLEASE COME AND HONOUR MY HUMBLE ABODE.

BOTH REACHED THE MAN'S HOUSE WHERE EVERYONE WAS BUSY. THEY WERE PREPARING TO LEAVE FOR SHIRDI TO ATTEND A WEDDING. THE YOUNG FAKIR ACCOMPANIED THEM.

AT SHIRDI-

YOU LOOK LIKE A MUSLIM. YOU HAVE NO ENTRANCE HERE.

THE YOUNG FAKIR MOVED AWAY IN SILENCE, TO THE NEEM TREE. THE VILLAGE HEADMAN SAW HIM—

I FEEL GREATLY ATTRACTED TOWARDS THIS YOUNG MAN. HE IS SURELY NOT AN ORDINARY FAKIR.

WELCOME TO SHIRDI, OH SAI!

IT WAS THUS THAT THE YOUNG FAKIR WAS WELCOMED TO SHIRDI. THE VILLAGERS CAME TO VISIT HIM DAILY. THEY CALLED HIM 'SAI BABA'*

PLEASE ENTER OUR VILLAGE AND SETTLE DOWN.

SAI BABA ENTERED SHIRDI AND MADE HIS RESIDENCE IN A DILAPIDATED MOSQUE.

HE BEGGED FOR HIS FOOD, AND ALSO FOR OIL TO LIGHT HIS LAMPS.

* SAI = SAINT. BABA = TERM OF ENDEARMENT AND RESPECT.

HE GREW A LITTLE GARDEN BESIDE THE MASJID, AND WATERED IT HIMSELF. HE HARDLY SPOKE TO ANYONE. HOLY MEN PASSING THROUGH SHIRDI NOTICED HIM.

WATCH THAT YOUNG FAKIR. HE IS LIKE A JEWEL IN A DUNGHILL.

BLESSED IS SHIRDI THAT IT GOT THIS PRECIOUS STONE.

BUT THE IGNORANT VILLAGERS COULD NOT UNDERSTAND HIM.

HE IS A CRAZY FAKIR.

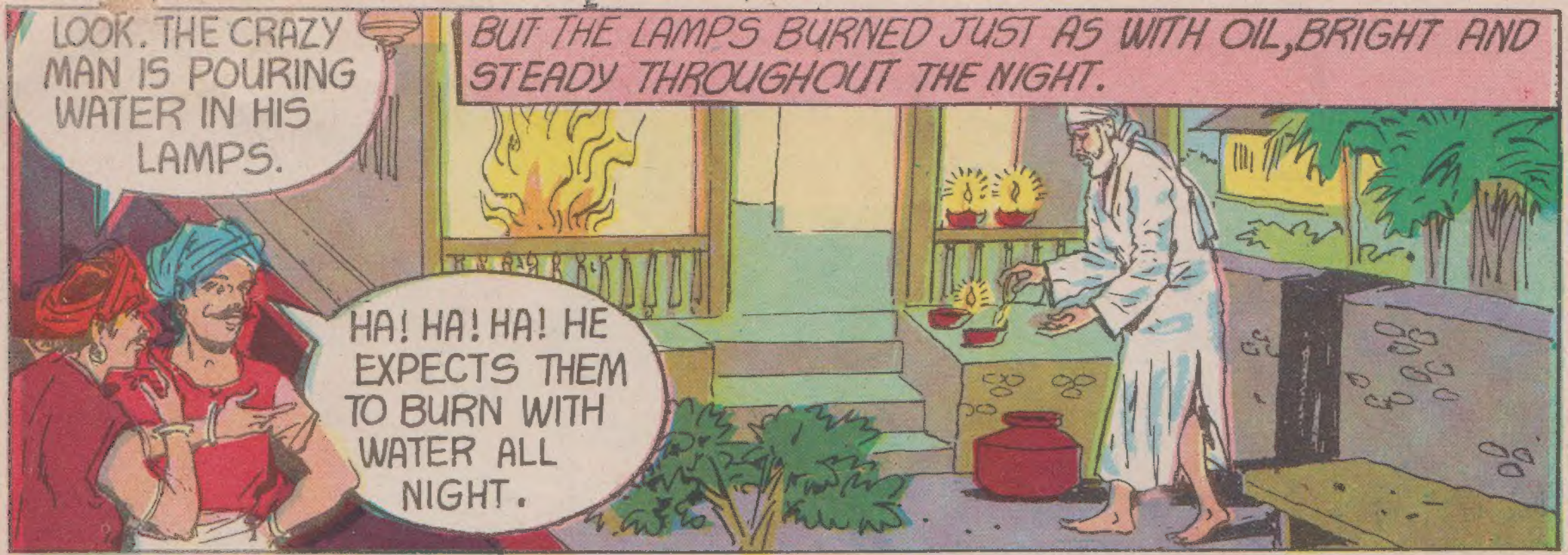
WHAT DOES HE DO EXCEPT GO A BEGGING?

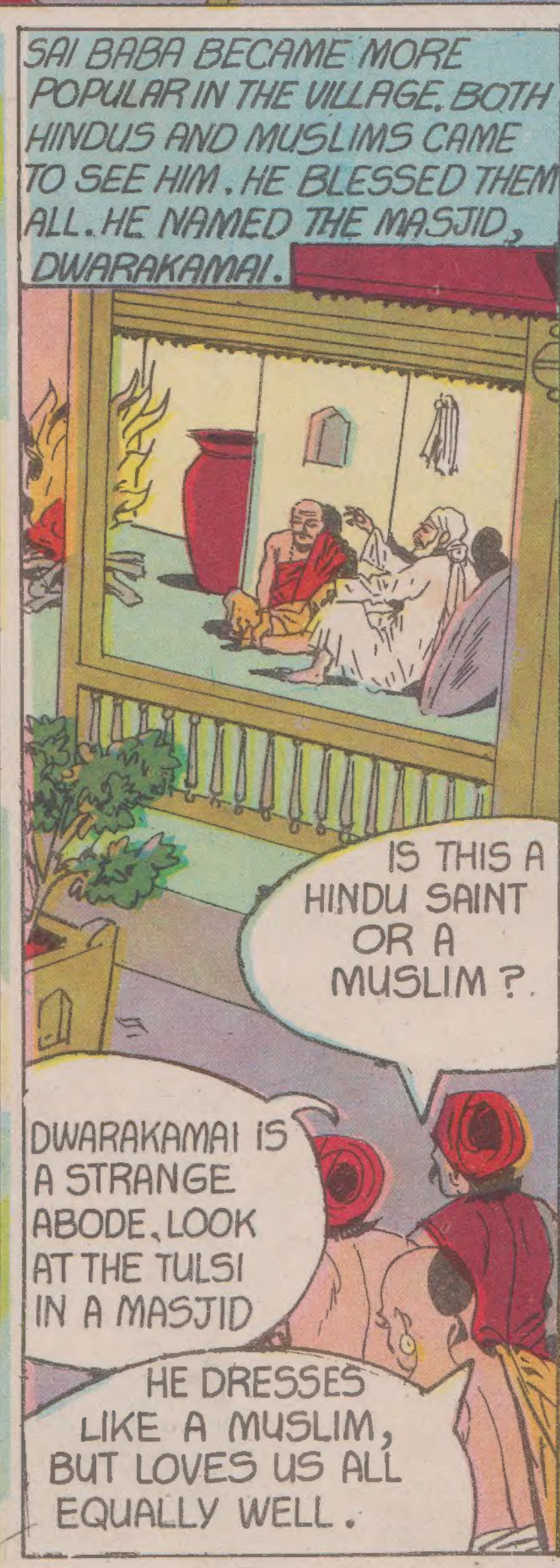
ONE DAY—

LET'S HAVE SOME FUN. LET'S REFUSE TO GIVE OIL TO THE FAKIR

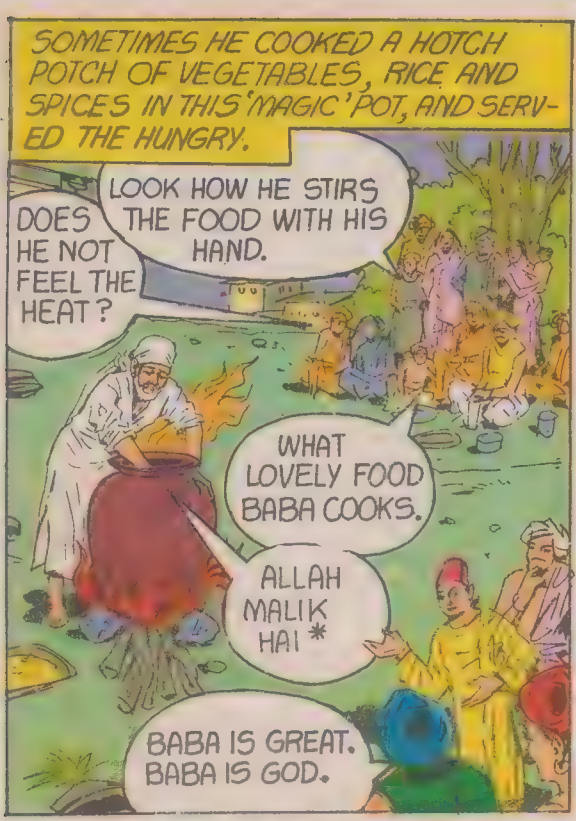
SAI BABA WENT BACK TO THE MASJID WITHOUT OIL THAT DAY

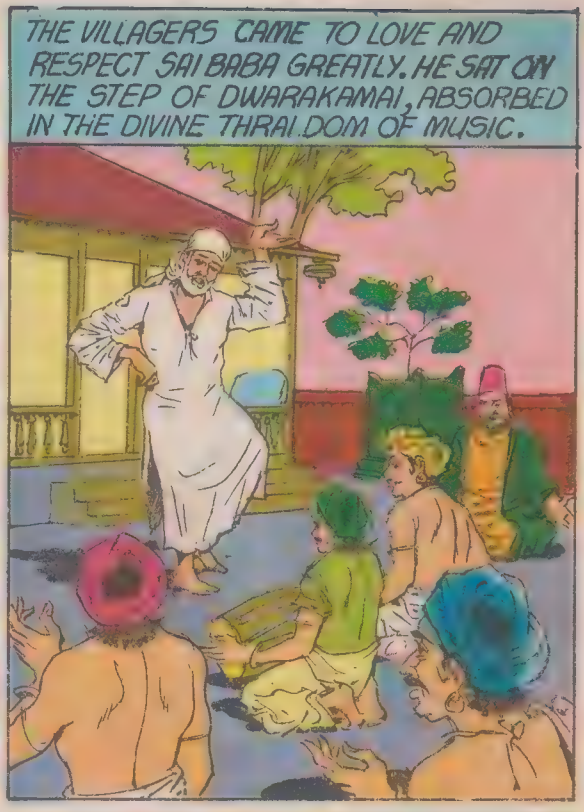
LET'S FOLLOW HIM AND SEE HOW HE LIGHTS HIS LAMPS

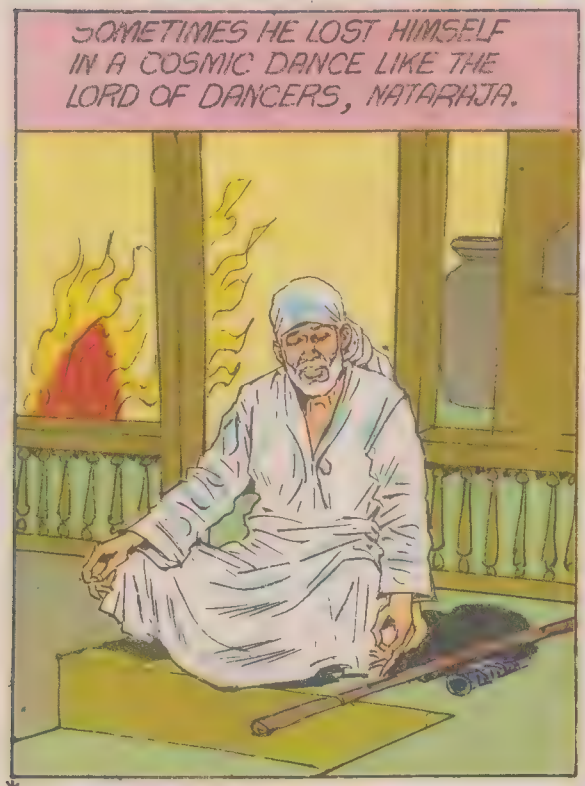


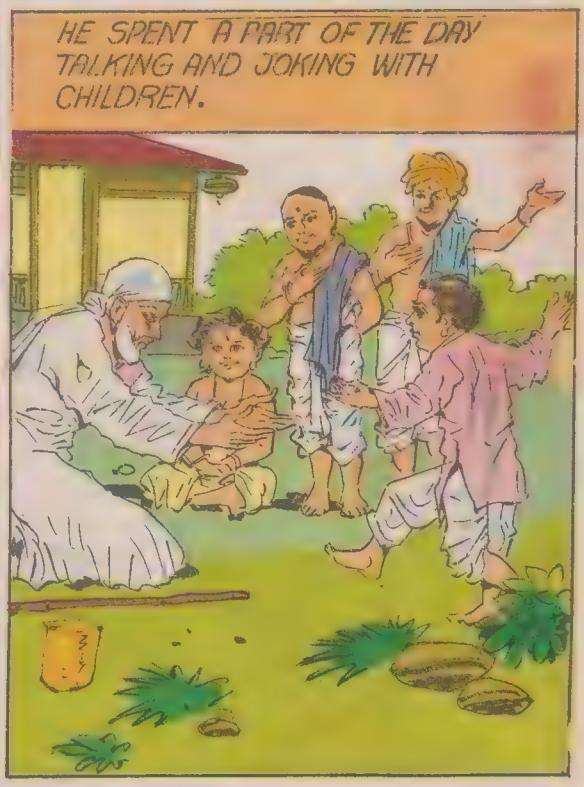


* BIG EARTHERN POT









* GOD IS THE MASTER

SAI BABA HAD PROFOUND LOVE AND COMPASSION FOR HUMANITY.
HI WORKED WONDERS TO HELP THOSE WHO SOUGHT HIS HELP WITH LOVE AND FAITH. ONCE A DEVOTEE CAME TO HIM WITH RED SWOLLEN EYES.
LOOK THAT POOR MAN'S EYES ARE CLEAR BUT BABA'S EYES ARE RED AND WATERING
PLEASE HELP, BABA. MY EYES ARE SMARTING SO BADLY
SIMPLE AND STRANGE WAS BABA'S BEDSTEAD
HOW DOES HE GET ON IT ?
IT IS HIS MIRACULOUS POWERS THAT KEEP HIM THERE
HOW DO THESE RAGS SUPPORT HIS WEIGHT ?
BUT BABA DID NOT APPROVE OF ANYONE COMMENTING ON HIS POWERS. HE PERFORMED SIDDHIS,* BUT NEVER FOR ANY PERSONAL MOTIVE
WHY ARE YOU ALL SO CURIOUS ABOUT MY BED ?

* MIRACLES

GRADUALLY BABA'S FAME SPREAD OUTSIDE SHIRDI. PEOPLE OF ALL CASTES AND CREEDS CAME TO SHIRDI TO RECEIVE HIS BLESSINGS. THE BURNT ASHES OF THE DHUNI * THAT BURNT IN THE MASJID WAS HIS HUMBLE, YET WONDROUS GIFT TO HIS DEVOTEES. ONCE A DEVOTEE CAME ALL THE WAY FROM BOMBAY.

MY DAUGHTER IS BURNING WITH FEVER FOR THE PAST THERTEEN DAYS. ONLY YOUR BLESSINGS CAN CURE HER.

THE NEXT DAY THE FEVER CAME DOWN.

MA, I AM FEELING FINE. WHAT MEDICINE DID YOU GIVE ME?

BABA'S UDHI, MY CHILD.

DEVOTEES CARRIED THE UDHI WITH THEM. IT WORKED WONDERS IN OTHER PARTS OF INDIA TOO. ONCE, IN COIMBATORE, IN A DEVOTEE'S HOUSE, WHERE BALAJI'S PUJA WAS BEING PERFORMED

FEAR NOT, DAUGHTER. I HAVE BABA'S UDHI.

OH, MOTHER, I HAVE PREPARED ONLY A POTFUL OF HALWA AND THE PEOPLE ARE SO MANY!

MIRACULOUSLY THERE CAME AN UNENDING SUPPLY OF HALWA FROM THE POT. ALL THE PEOPLE GOT THEIR SHARE.

SAI BABA IS REALLY GREAT!

* ETERNAL FIRE

THERE WERE MANY WHO CAME TO SHIRDI WITHOUT FAITH. BABA KNEW AT ONCE WHO THEY WERE
LET'S GO AND WATCH THE STRANGE WONDER-WORKER.
DO NOT STEP IN DWARAKAMAI IF YOU HAVE NO FAITH IN ALLAH OR IN ME, A SERVANT OF ALLAH!
ALL THAT IS ALLAH!
BUT YOU CANNOT ALLOW HINDUS TO DO IDOL WORSHIP HERE. HOW THEY SING AND DANCE AT TIMES!
HE SAYS 'RAMA' TOO. HE TELLS US THAT GOD HAS NO CASTE OR CREED.
WHY DOES HE SAY ALLAH? IS HE A MUSLIM?
ONE DAY WHEN SAI BABA WAS OUT WALKING BY HIMSELF...
...A MAN CAME VERY CLOSE WITH OUTSTRETCHED HANDS TO STRIKE HIM WITH A CLUB.

BABA TURNED, HOLDING THE HAND WITH THE CLUB...
...AND LOOKED AT HIM WITH COMPASSION.
FORGIVE ME!
BUT THE HINDUS ARE WORSHIPPING YOUR PICTURE. IT IS VERY WRONG. LET ME CUT THEIR THROATS.
CUT MY THROAT FIRST, MY FRIEND. I AM RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR IDOL WORSHIP.
AH! NOW I UNDERSTAND YOUR TOLERANCE. ALLAH IS KRISHNA, KRISHNA IS ALLAH.
THUS ENDED THE HINDU-MUSLIM ENMITY IN SHIRDI.

AT DWARAKAMAI, HINDU PUNDITS READ AND DISCUSSED THE SHASTRAS AND THE GITA. THE MUSLIMS READ THE KORAN. BABA EXPLAINED AND DISCUSSED THE PROFUNDITIES OF BOTH THE SCRIPTURES.

ONCE, A DEVOTEE DRAGGED HIS BRAHMIN FRIEND ALONG WITH HIM TO SEE BABA.

I HEARD THAT BABA IS A MUSLIM. I AM A HIGH CASTE BRAHMIN. WHY ARE YOU DRAGGING ME TO SEE HIM?

PLEASE COME AND SEE FOR YOUR-SELF. BABA IS WONDERFUL.

AS SOON AS THE TWO OF THEM STEPPED IN DWARAKAMAI-

YOU ARE A HIGH CASTE BRAHMIN. I AM ONLY A MUSLIM. WHY HAVE YOU COME TO SEE ME?

FORGIVE ME!

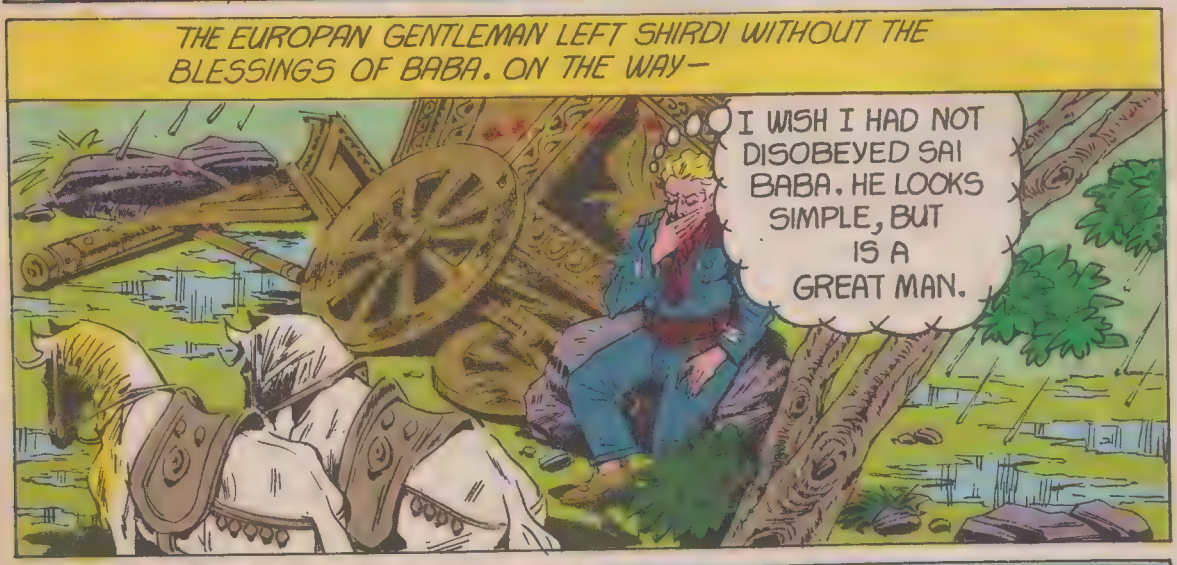
OH, HOW WELL HE HAS READ MY MIND. HE IS NO LOWLY MUSLIM!

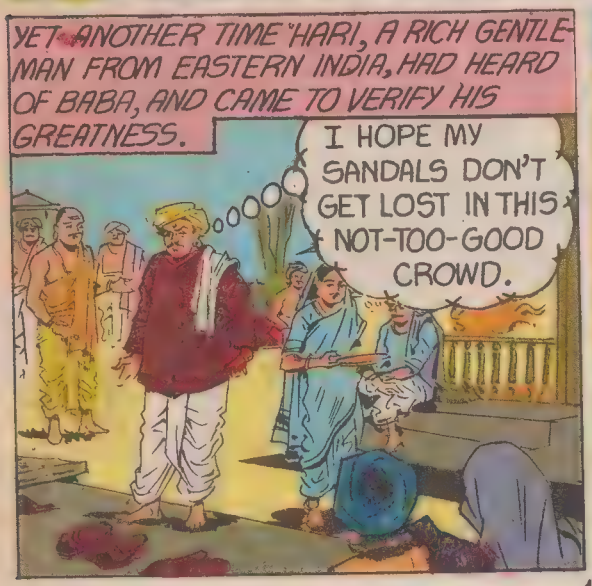
ANOTHER MAN, A DEVOTEE OF SRI RAMA, CAME TO SHIRDI. HE LOOKED AT BABA-

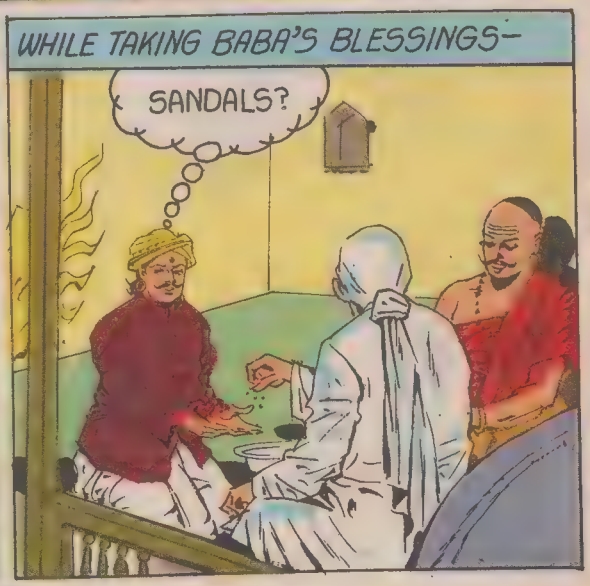
I SHALL NOT BOW DOWN IN FRONT OF THIS FAKIR. WHAT IS HE, COMPARED TO MY SRI RAMA?

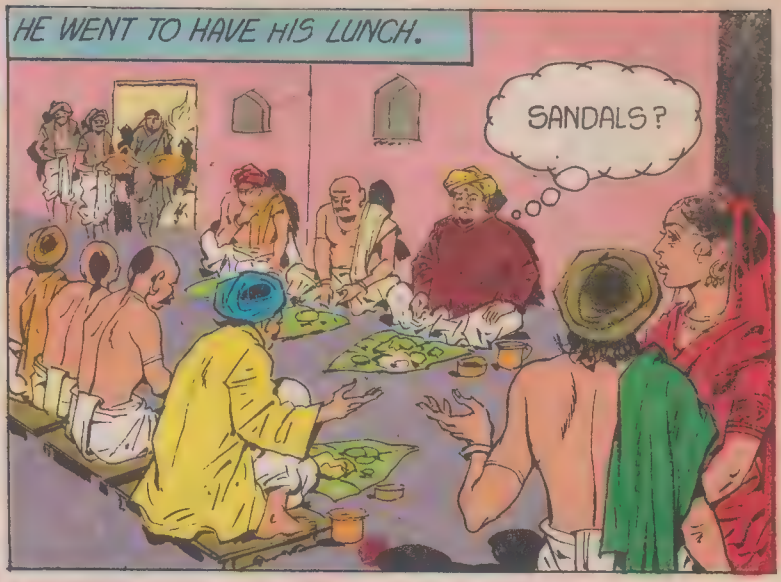
AS ARATI WAS BEING PERFORMED—
WHAT DO I SEE? I CAN'T BELIEVE. INDEED, BABA IS A MANIFESTATION OF SRI RAMA HIMSELF!
HE RUSHED IN.
FORGIVE ME, BABA. I MISUNDERSTOOD YOUR GARB AND SPOKE WRONGLY.
BY 1900 SRI BABA'S FAME HAD SPREAD FAR AND WIDE. PEOPLE THRONGED FOR HIS DARSHAN AND BLESSINGS. AMONGST THEM WAS A EUROPEAN GENTLEMAN.
THIS INDIAN SAINT IS NOT VERY SAINTLY. ANYWAY I'LL STEP IN, KISS HIS HAND AND GO.
WAIT. I SHALL CALL YOU.
I AM IN A HURRY. I CAN'T WAIT.

PLEASE WAIT. BABA WISHES SO. HE WILL SURELY BLESS YOU.
NO, NO, I AM A VERY BUSY PERSON. HOW CAN HE ASK ME TO WAIT ?

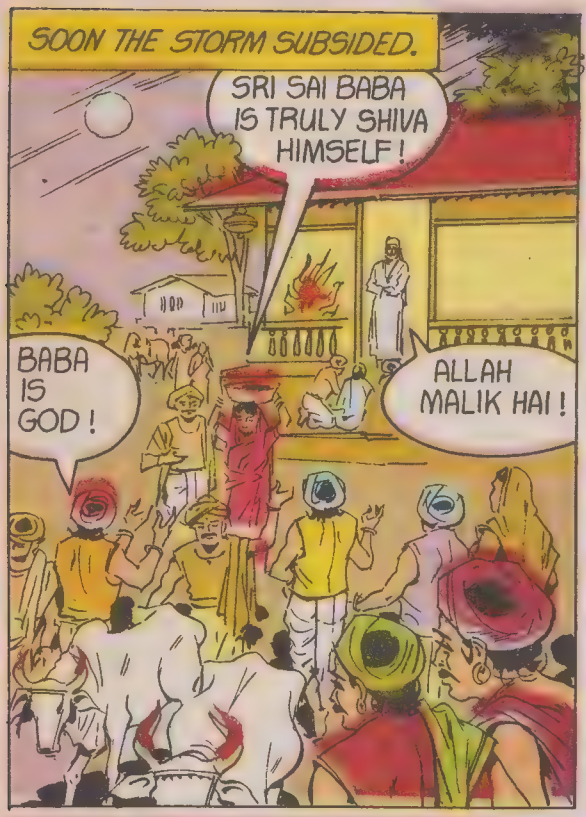

THE EUROPAN GENTLEMAN LEFT SHIRDI WITHOUT THE BLESSINGS OF BABA. ON THE WAY—
I WISH I HAD NOT DISOBEYED SAI BABA. HE LOOKS SIMPLE, BUT IS A GREAT MAN.


YET ANOTHER TIME HARI, A RICH GENTLEMAN FROM EASTERN INDIA, HAD HEARD OF BABA, AND CAME TO VERIFY HIS GREATNESS.
I HOPE MY SANDALS DON'T GET LOST IN THIS NOT-TOO-GOOD CROWD.


WHILE TAKING BABA'S BLESSINGS—
SANDALS?

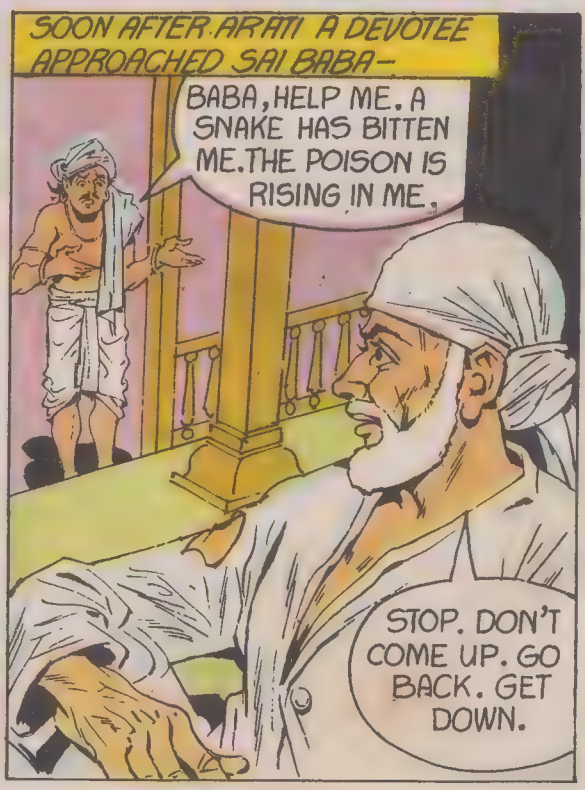


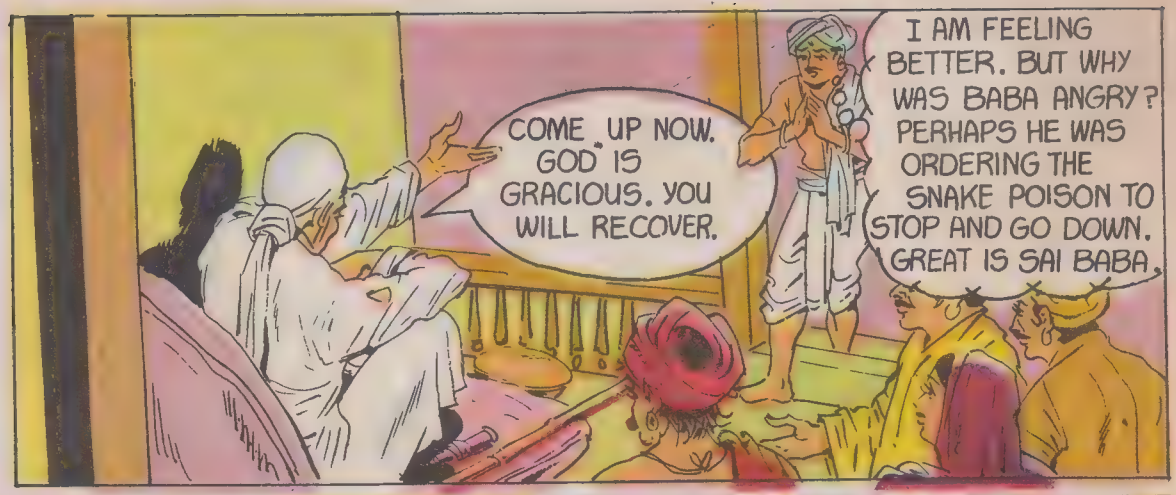
IN ORDER TO PROTECT AND SAFEGUARD HIS LOVING DEVOTEES, SAI BABA EVEN CONTROLLED THE ELEMENTS OF NATURE. ONCE THERE WAS A SUDDEN AND TERRIBLE STORM IN SHIRDI. THE VILLAGERS AND THE NUMEROUS DEVOTEES WHO HAD COME FROM AFAR TREMBLED.

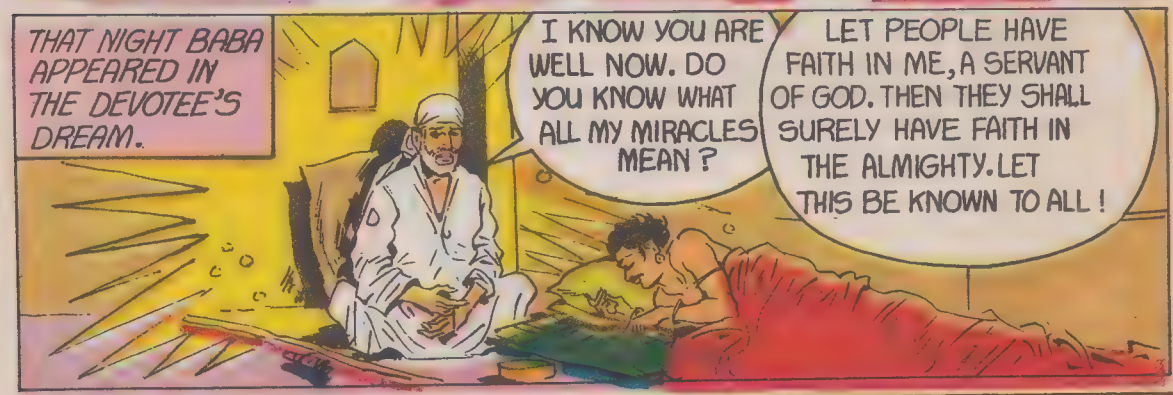

SOON THE STORM SUBSIDED.
SRI SAI BABA IS TRULY SHIVA HIMSELF!
BABA IS GOD!
ALLAH MALIK HAI!

ON ANOTHER OCCASION, AT NOON, THE FLAMES OF THE DHUNI SUDDENLY FLARED UP.
WE CAN'T POUR WATER. IF THE FLAMES OF THE DHUNI ARE QUENCHED, BABA WON'T LIKE IT.
WHAT SHALL WE DO? WE WILL BE BURNT AND DWARAKAMAI WILL BE RUINED!
DO NOT WORRY. BABA WILL TAKE CARE OF EVERYTHING.

SUDDENLY BABA WOKE UP.
GET DOWN AT ONCE AND BE CALM.

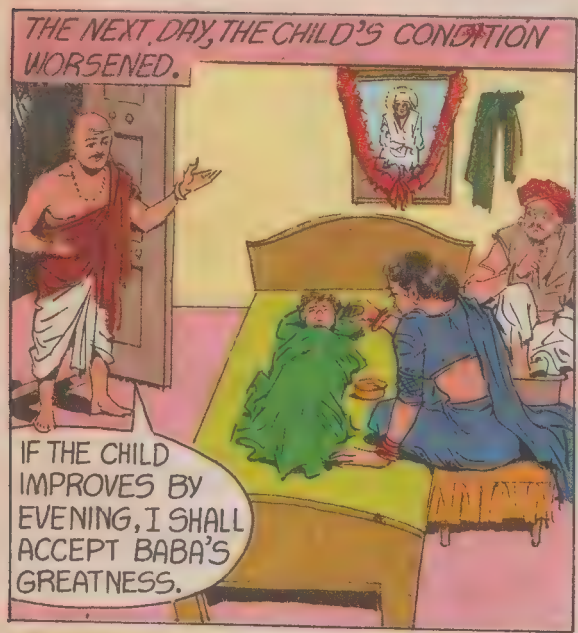

SOON AFTER ARATI A DEVOTEE APPROACHED SAI BABA—
BABA, HELP ME. A SNAKE HAS BITTEN ME. THE POISON IS RISING IN ME.
STOP. DON'T COME UP. GO BACK. GET DOWN.

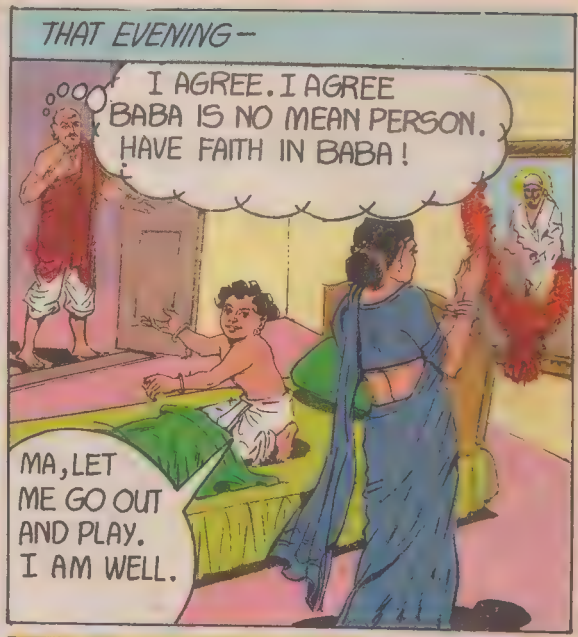

COME UP NOW. GOD IS GRACIOUS. YOU WILL RECOVER.
I AM FEELING BETTER. BUT WHY WAS BABA ANGRY? PERHAPS HE WAS ORDERING THE SNAKE POISON TO STOP AND GO DOWN. GREAT IS SAI BABA.

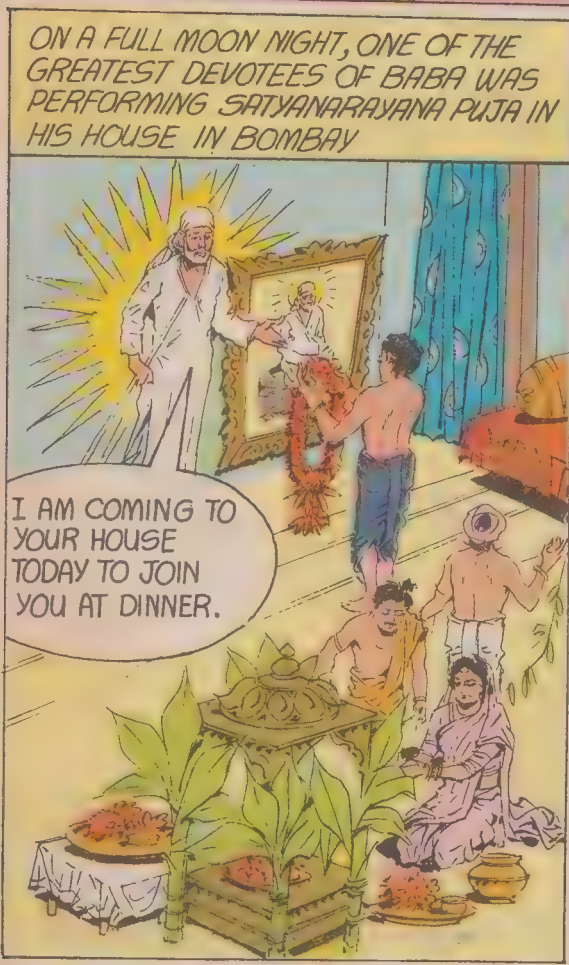

THAT NIGHT BABA APPEARED IN THE DEVOTEE'S DREAM.
I KNOW YOU ARE WELL NOW. DO YOU KNOW WHAT ALL MY MIRACLES MEAN?
LET PEOPLE HAVE FAITH IN ME, A SERVANT OF GOD. THEN THEY SHALL SURELY HAVE FAITH IN THE ALMIGHTY. LET THIS BE KNOWN TO ALL!

PHYSICALLY, BABA NEVER LEFT SHIRDI. BUT HE HELPED DEVOTEES FAR AND NEAR. HE APPEARED TO THEM IN MANY PARTS OF THE COUNTRY. ONCE, IN ANDHRA PRADESH, IN THE HOUSE OF A DEVOTEE, THE CHILD WAS VERY ILL.
BABU IS ILL BECAUSE YOU NEGLECT GOD AND WORSHIP A FAKIR.
PUNDITJI, DON'T SAY THAT. BABA WILL SURELY HELP.

THAT NIGHT, IN PUNDITJI'S DREAM—
WHAT DO YOU MEAN? I AM THE LORD OF THIS HOUSE!


THE NEXT DAY, THE CHILD'S CONDITION WORSENED.
IF THE CHILD IMPROVES BY EVENING, I SHALL ACCEPT BABA'S GREATNESS.


THAT EVENING—
I AGREE. I AGREE BABA IS NO MEAN PERSON. HAVE FAITH IN BABA!
MA, LET ME GO OUT AND PLAY. I AM WELL.


ON A FULL MOON NIGHT, ONE OF THE GREATEST DEVOTEES OF BABA WAS PERFORMING SATYANARAYANA PUJA IN HIS HOUSE IN BOMBAY
I AM COMING TO YOUR HOUSE TODAY TO JOIN YOU AT DINNER.

HE WAS OVERJOYED.
PREPARE EXTRA FOOD. SAI BABA IS COMING FOR MEALS TONIGHT. LET THERE BE SPECIAL PUJA AND SPECIAL FOOD.
HOW CAN HE COME? HE DOESN'T MOVE OUT OF SHIRDI!

THE PUJA WAS COMING TO AN END, BUT THERE WAS NO SIGN OF BABA.

HARK. DO I HEAR SOMEBODY KNOCKING AT THE DOOR.?

PLEASE TAKE THIS PICTURE. I HAVE ROAMED A LOT LOOKING FOR YOUR HOUSE. I AM TIRED AND HUNGRY.

OH, OH. SAI BABA HAS COME IN THE FORM OF THIS MAN AS MY GUEST. AND HIS PICTURE, TOO!

I SAW SAI BABA IN MY DREAM. HE ASKED ME TO TAKE THIS TO YOUR HOUSE.

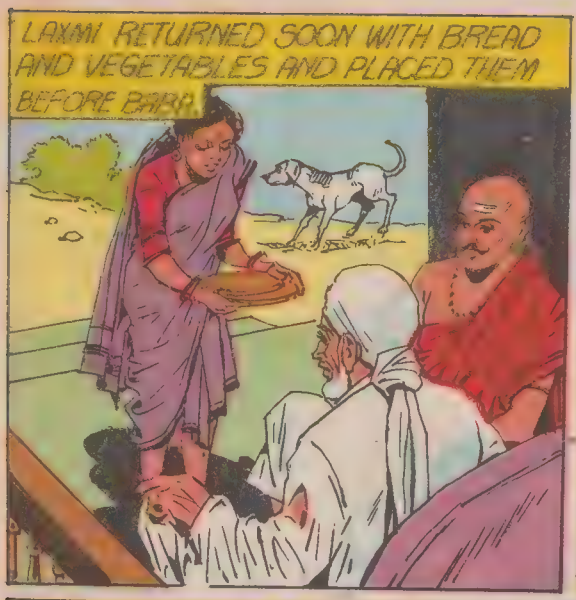
WHO GAVE YOU THIS PICTURE?

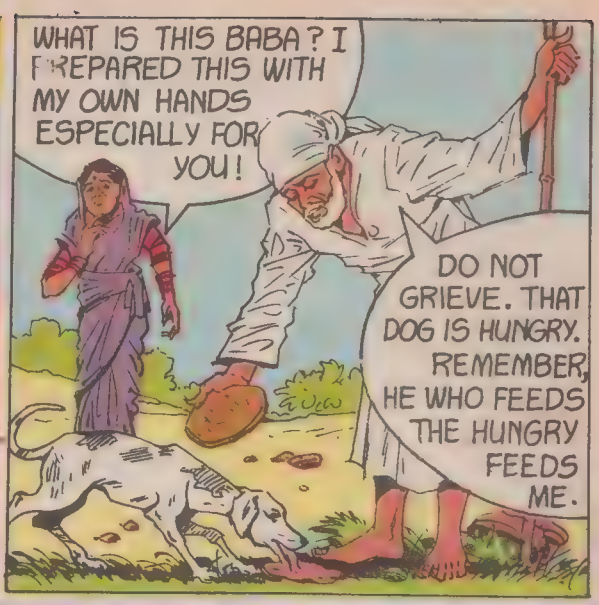
OH, WONDERFUL BABA!

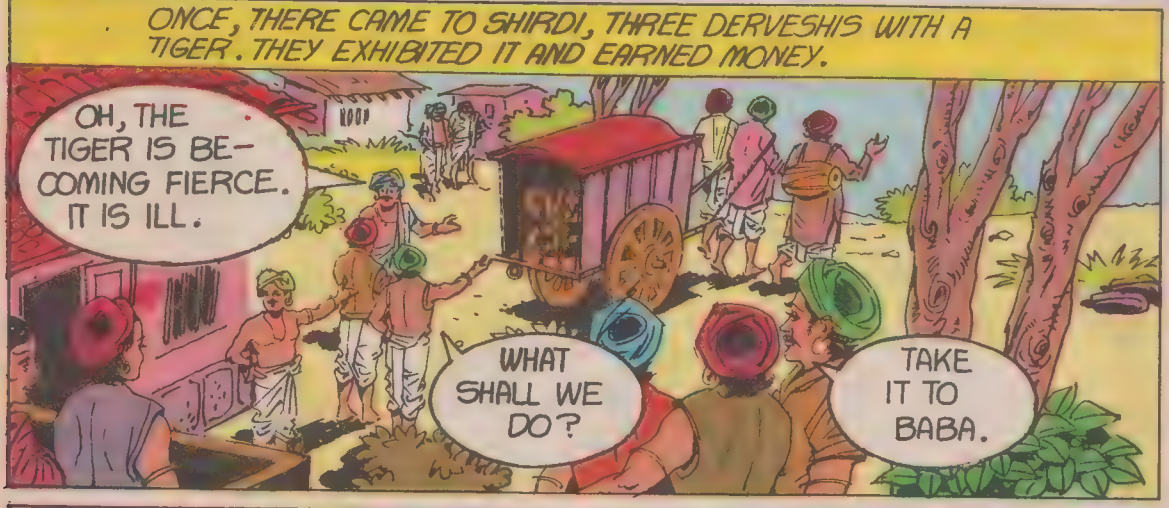
MORE AND MORE DEVOTEES THRONGED SHIRDI. SAI BABA'S MIRACULOUS BEHAVIOUR REMOVED DOUBTS AND DISBELIEF FROM THE HEARTS OF ALL. HIS INFINITE COMPASSION WAS SHOWERED ON MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN-WAY, EVEN ANIMALS! THERE WAS A DEVOTEE WHO WORKED DAY AND NIGHT IN DWARAKAMAI. ONE DAY-

OH, LAXMI. I AM VERY HUNGRY.

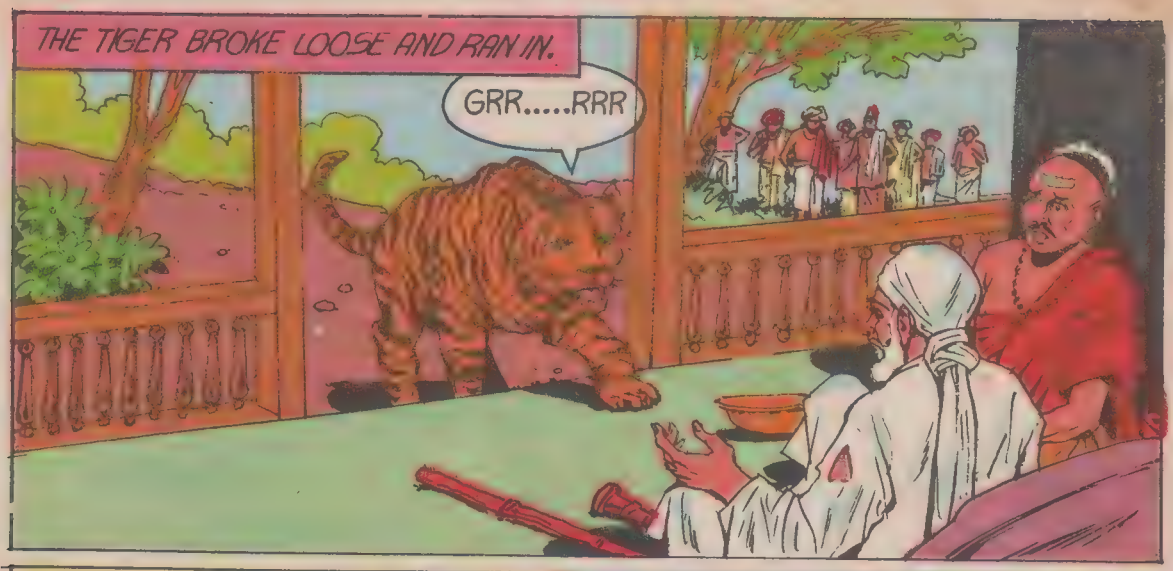
BABA, WAIT A MINUTE. I SHALL RETURN IMMEDIATELY WITH BREAD.


LAXMI RETURNED SOON WITH BREAD AND VEGETABLES AND PLACED THEM BEFORE BABA.


WHAT IS THIS BABA? I PREPARED THIS WITH MY OWN HANDS ESPECIALLY FOR YOU!
DO NOT GRIEVE. THAT DOG IS HUNGRY. REMEMBER, HE WHO FEEDS THE HUNGRY FEEDS ME.


ONCE, THERE CAME TO SHIRDI, THREE DERVESHIS WITH A TIGER. THEY EXHIBITED IT AND EARNED MONEY.
OH, THE TIGER IS BECOMING FIERCE. IT IS ILL.
WHAT SHALL WE DO?
TAKE IT TO BABA.

THE DERVESHIS TOOK THE TIGER TO DWARAKA-MAI.


THE TIGER BROKE LOOSE AND RAN IN.
GRR.....RRR

HAI ALLAH!
RAM, RAM!
GRR.....RRR

LEARN TO HAVE COMPASSION FOR ANIMALS. ALL ARE GOD'S CREATURES. SOME SPEAK, AND SOME ARE DUMB.

MONEY CAME POURING INTO DWARAKAMAI. DEVOTEES BROUGHT LARGE AND SMALL AMOUNTS OF MONEY DAILY AS DAKSHINA FOR THE SAINT.

THERE IS A COLLECTION OF A THOUSAND RUPEES TODAY, BABA. WHAT SHALL WE DO WITH IT ?

DISTRIBUTE IT AMONG THE POOR AND THE NEEDY.

EVEN ALL THE FRUIT AND SWEETMEATS THAT CAME AS OFFERINGS WERE DISTRIBUTED AMONGST THE POOR AND FAITHFUL DEVOTEES.

AT THE END OF THE DAY, EVERYTHING WAS DISTRIBUTED, AND SAI BABA REMAINED A PAUPER, JUST AS BEFORE.

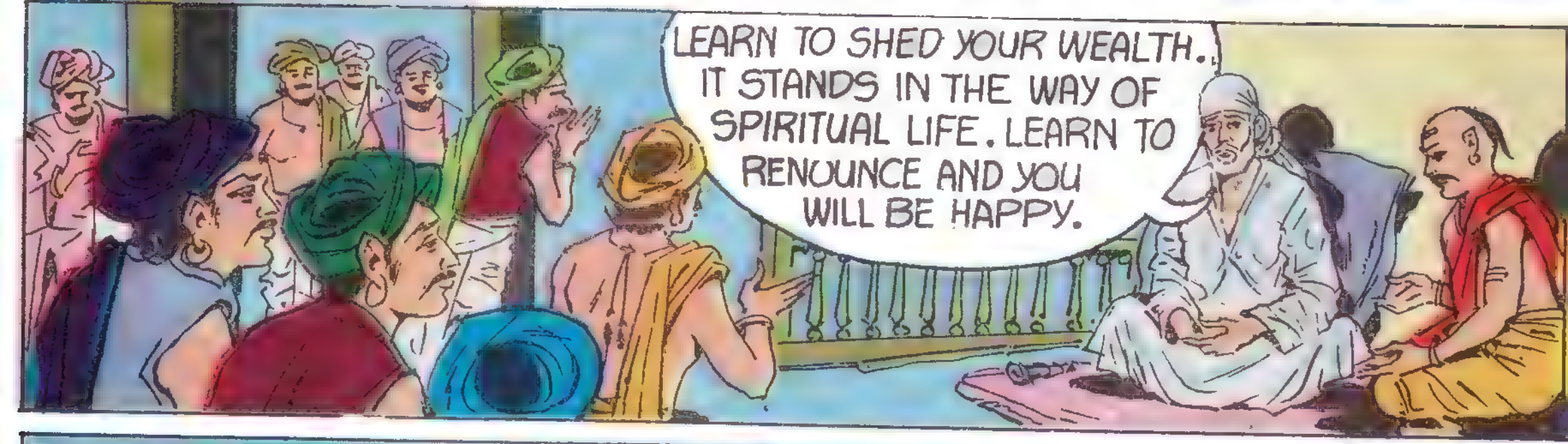
BABA, WHY DO YOU NOT KEEP SOME OF THE DAKSHINA FOR YOURSELF?

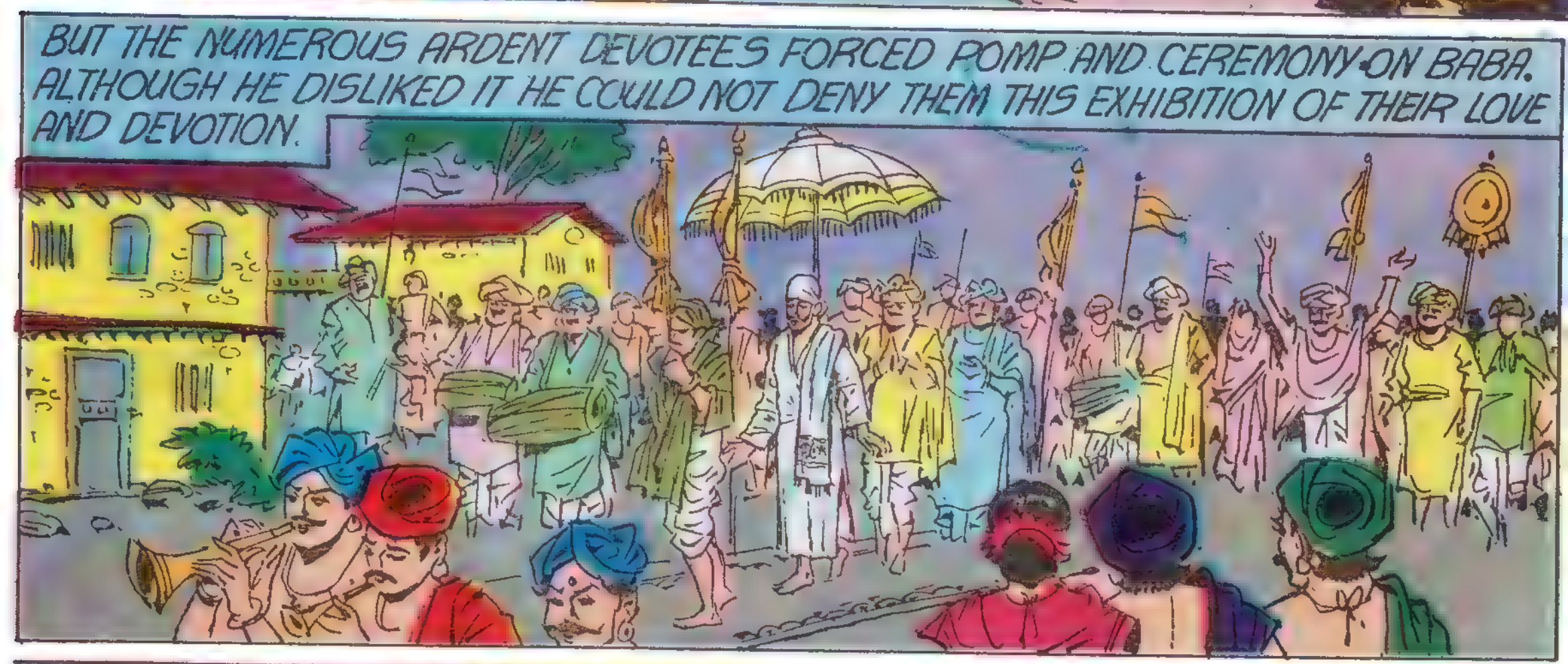
I HAVE NO NEED FOR MONEY. LET THE NEEDY HAVE IT. YOU TOO SHOULD GIVE AWAY WHAT IS NOT NECESSARY FOR YOU.

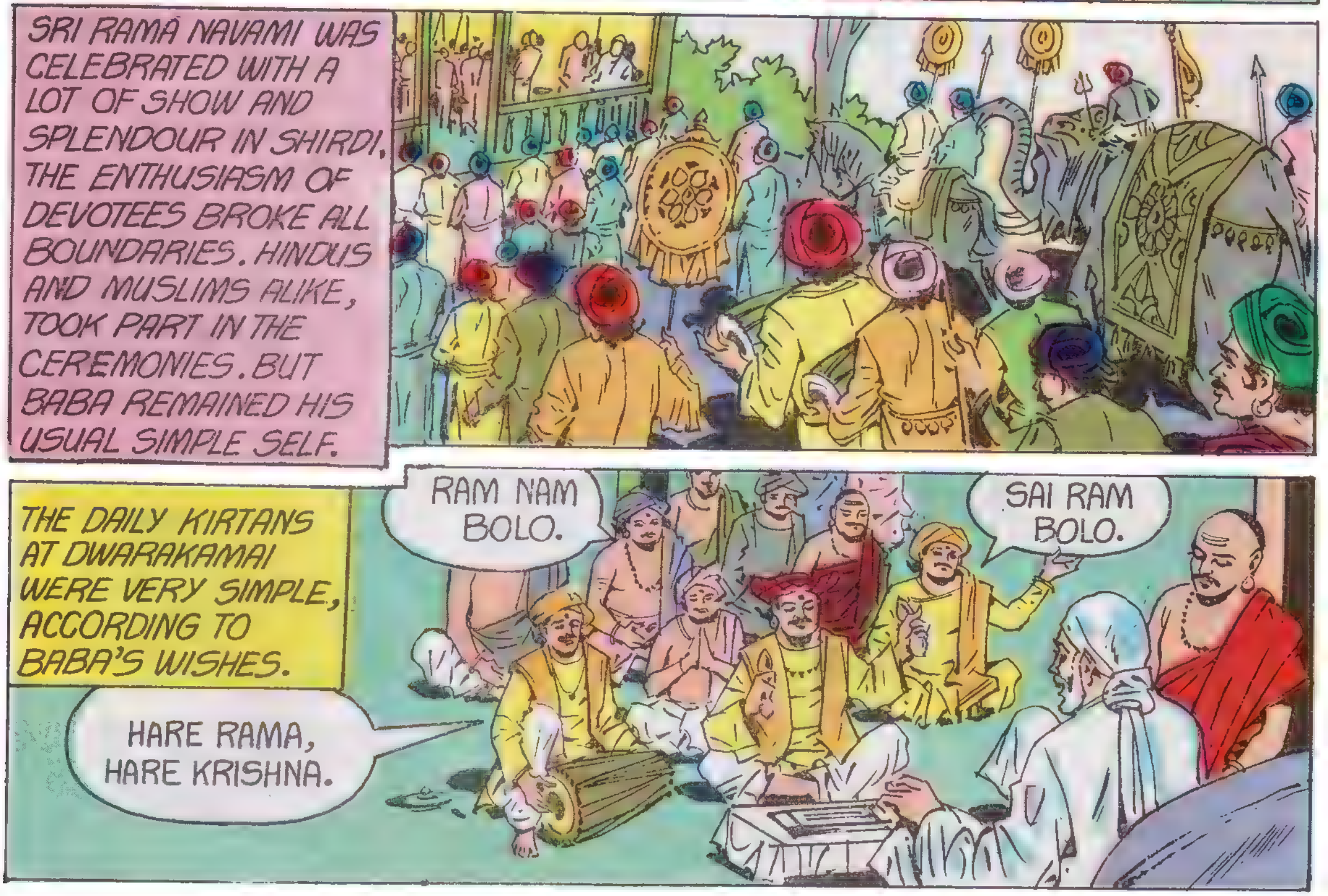
BUT AT TIMES BABA DEMANDED DAKSHINA OUT OF SOME VISITORS.

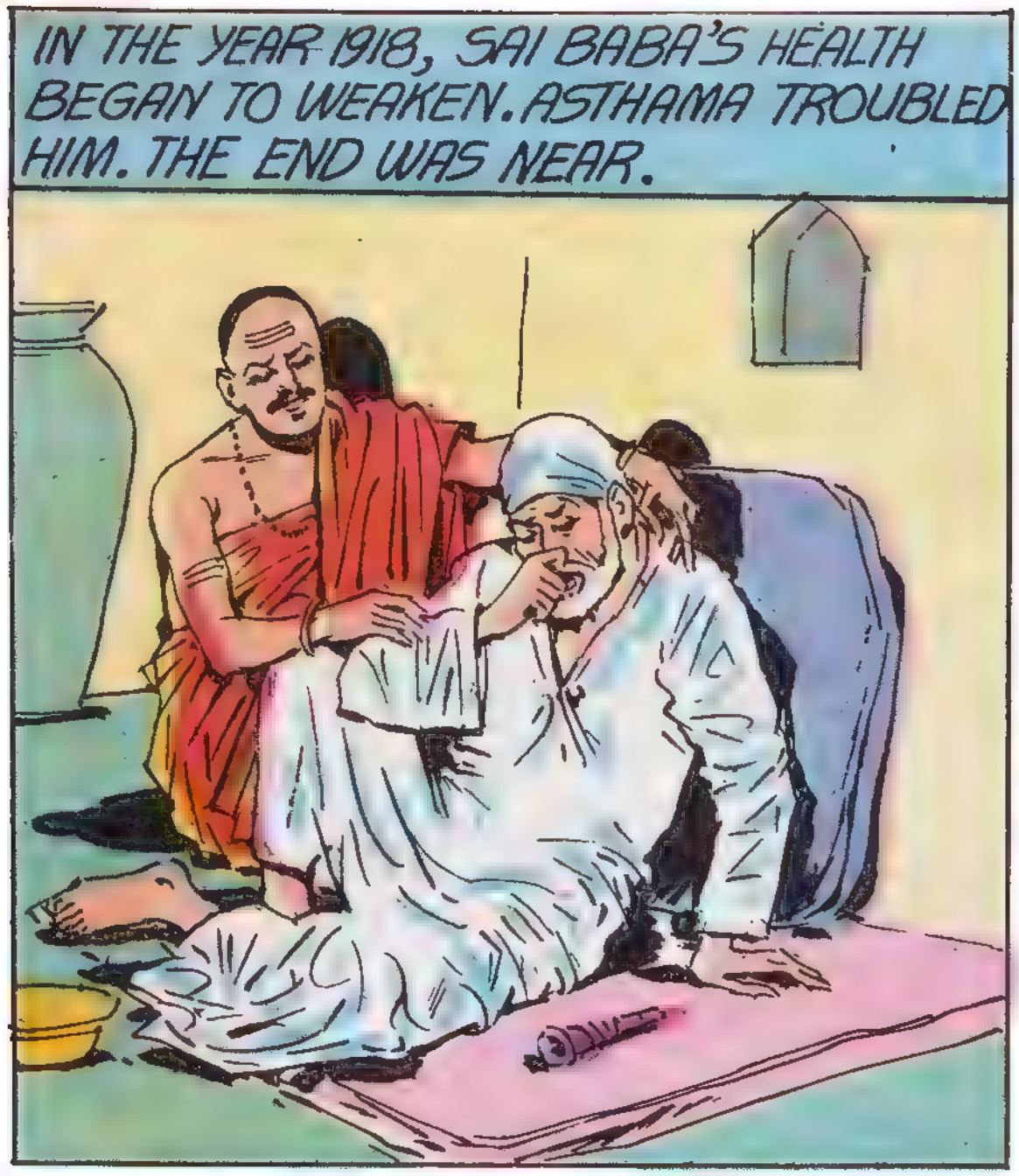
GIVE ME THE OTHER TWENY FIVE RUPEES. THERE ARE MANY WHO ARE POOR AND NEEDY. I SHALL GIVE IT TO THEM.

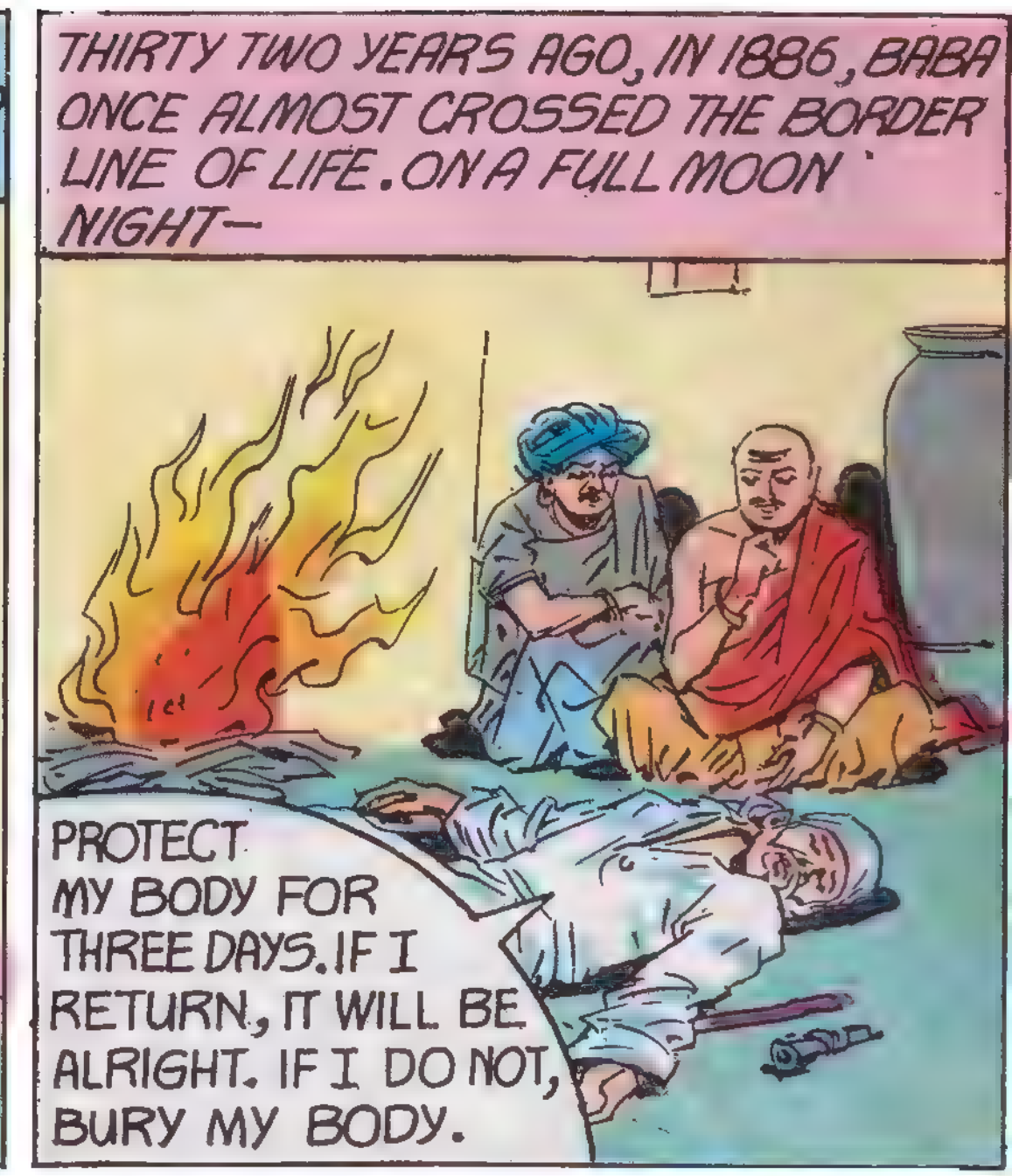
TRUE, I THOUGHT OF GIVING FIFTY RUPEES AS DAKSHINA TO BABA. BUT NO, THAT IS TOO MUCH. I'LL GIVE JUST TWENTY FIVE RUPEES.

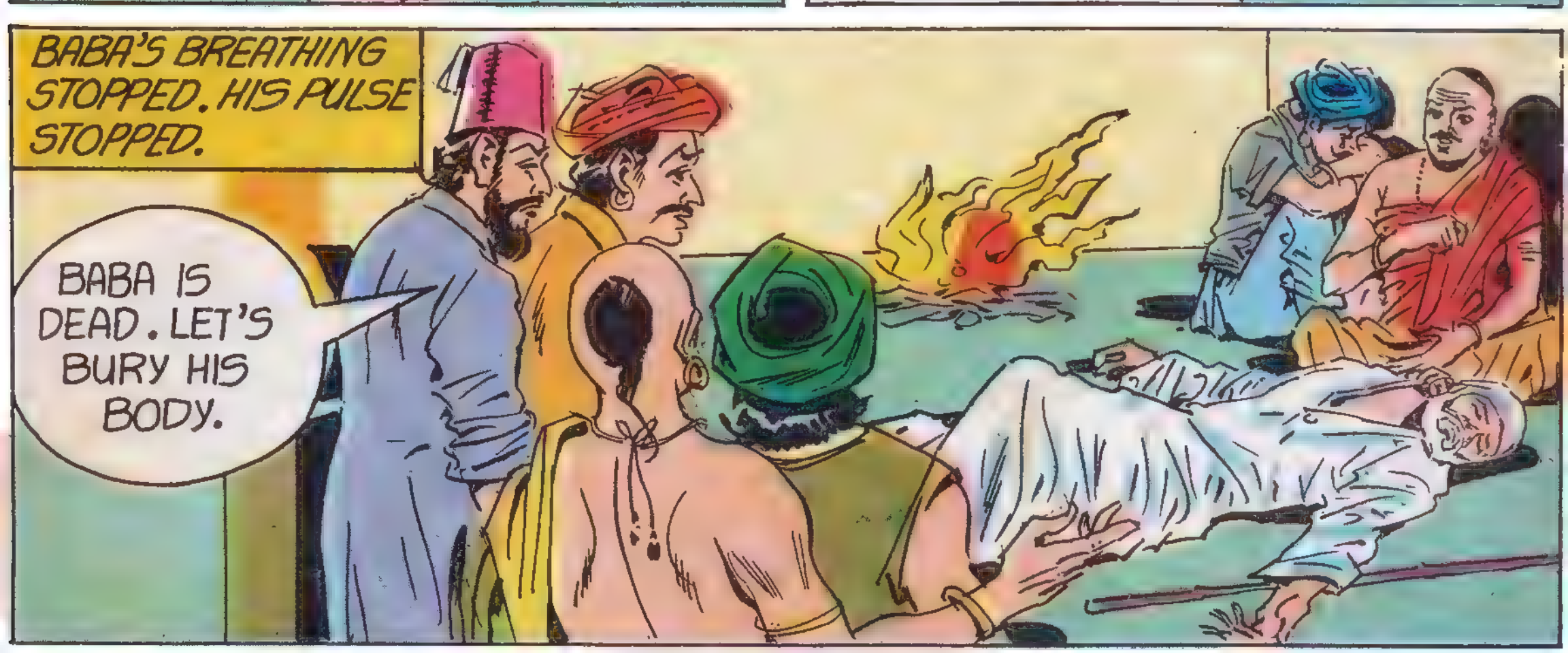

LEARN TO SHED YOUR WEALTH. IT STANDS IN THE WAY OF SPIRITUAL LIFE. LEARN TO RENOUNCE AND YOU WILL BE HAPPY.


BUT THE NUMEROUS ARDENT DEVOTEES FORCED POMP AND CEREMONY ON BABA. ALTHOUGH HE DISLIKED IT HE COULD NOT DENY THEM THIS EXHIBITION OF THEIR LOVE AND DEVOTION.


SRI RAMA NAVAMI WAS CELEBRATED WITH A LOT OF SHOW AND SPLENDOUR IN SHIRDI. THE ENTHUSIASM OF DEVOTEES BROKE ALL BOUNDARIES. HINDUS AND MUSLIMS ALIKE, TOOK PART IN THE CEREMONIES. BUT BABA REMAINED HIS USUAL SIMPLE SELF.
THE DAILY KIRTANS AT DWARAKAMAI WERE VERY SIMPLE, ACCORDING TO BABA'S WISHES.
RAM NAM BOLO.
SAI RAM BOLO.
HARE RAMA, HARE KRISHNA.


IN THE YEAR 1918, SAI BABA'S HEALTH BEGAN TO WEAKEN. ASTHAMA TROUBLED HIM. THE END WAS NEAR.


THIRTY TWO YEARS AGO, IN 1886, BABA ONCE ALMOST CROSSED THE BORDER LINE OF LIFE. ON A FULL MOON NIGHT—
PROTECT MY BODY FOR THREE DAYS. IF I RETURN, IT WILL BE ALRIGHT. IF I DO NOT, BURY MY BODY.


BABA'S BREATHING STOPPED. HIS PULSE STOPPED.
BABA IS DEAD. LET'S BURY HIS BODY.

NO, YOU CANNOT DO THAT. BABA HAS ASKED US TO WAIT FOR THREE DAYS. GO AWAY.

AFTER THREE DAYS–

BABA IS BREATHING.

COME AND SEE, BABA IS ALIVE. REJOICE.

HE IS ALIVE.

AGAIN IN THE YEAR 1916 DURING DUSSEHRA BABA GAVE ANOTHER INDICATION OF HIS PASSING AWAY. ONE DAY, HE SUDDENLY LOST HIS TEMPER.

YOU FELLOWS, YOU WILL NOW DECIDE WHETHER I AM A MUSLIM OR A HINDU. LEAVE ME ALONE. I AM CROSSING THE BORDER.

WHAT IS THIS, ON AN AUSPICIOUS DAY?

BABA DID NOT COOL DOWN TILL LATE IN THE NIGHT. AFTER THAT HE SUDDENLY BECAME NORMAL, AND ALL WAS WELL. BUT PEOPLE DID NOT UNDERSTAND THE MEANING OF 'CROSSING THE BORDER.' TWO YEARS LATER, AT THE SAME TIME HE WAS GOING TO BREATHE HIS LAST.

A FEW MONTHS LATER, A DEAR DEVOTEE OF BABA WAS VERY SICK. ONE NIGHT, HE HAD A VISION.

DO NOT WORRY. YOU WILL BE WELL. BUT I AM WORRIED ABOUT TATYA. HE WILL PASS AWAY ON VIJAYA DASAMI DAY IN 1918.

SOON, HE WAS WELL AS BABA HAD PREDICTED.

BABA HAS TAKEN CARE OF ME. BUT WHAT ABOUT TATYA ? WHAT IF BABA'S PREDICTION COMES TRUE!

DUSSEHRA FESTIVITIES BEGAN IN THE YEAR 1918. BABA WAS BECOMING WEAKER AND WEAKER. BUT IT WAS TATYA WHO BECAME SUDDENLY ILL AND WAS ON HIS DEATH BED.

SAI RAM, SAI RAM.

SAI BABA WAS ALSO WEAK AND WAS RECLINING IN HIS ASAN.

I CAN'T LET TATYA DIE.

VIJAYA DASAMI DAY DAWNED. AT TATYA'S BEDSIDE–

OH BABA. LET NOT YOUR WORDS COME TRUE.

SUDDENLY–

WHAT ? ARE YOU SURE YOU ARE ALRIGHT.

I AM FEELING WELL. LET US GO AND SEE BABA.

WHEREAS, AT DWARAKAMAI–

WHAT DOES HE MEAN ?

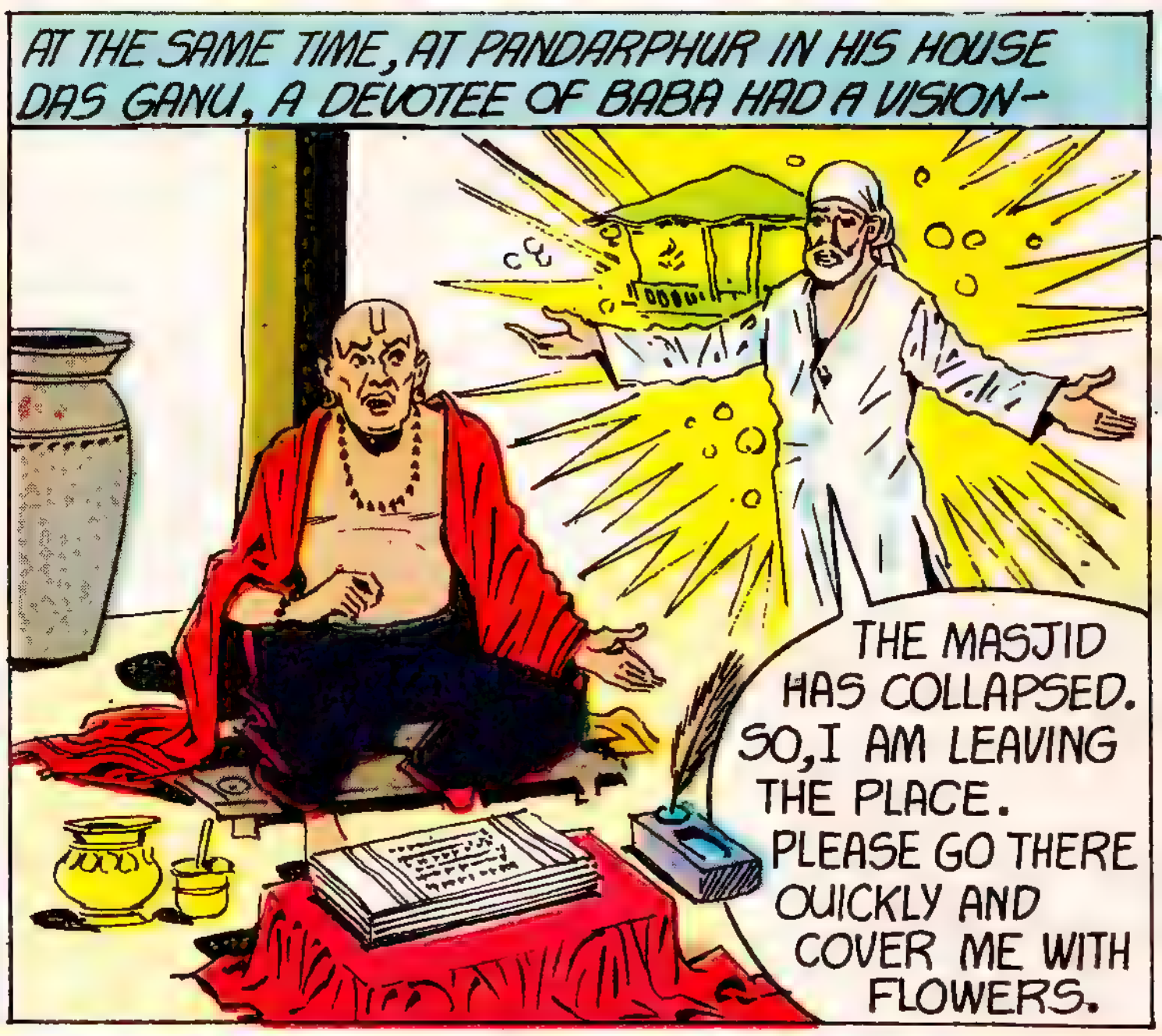
GO BACK TO YOUR HOUSES. DO NOT COME BACK TO SEE ME. THE LIGHT THAT ALLAH LIT, HE IS TAKING AWAY.

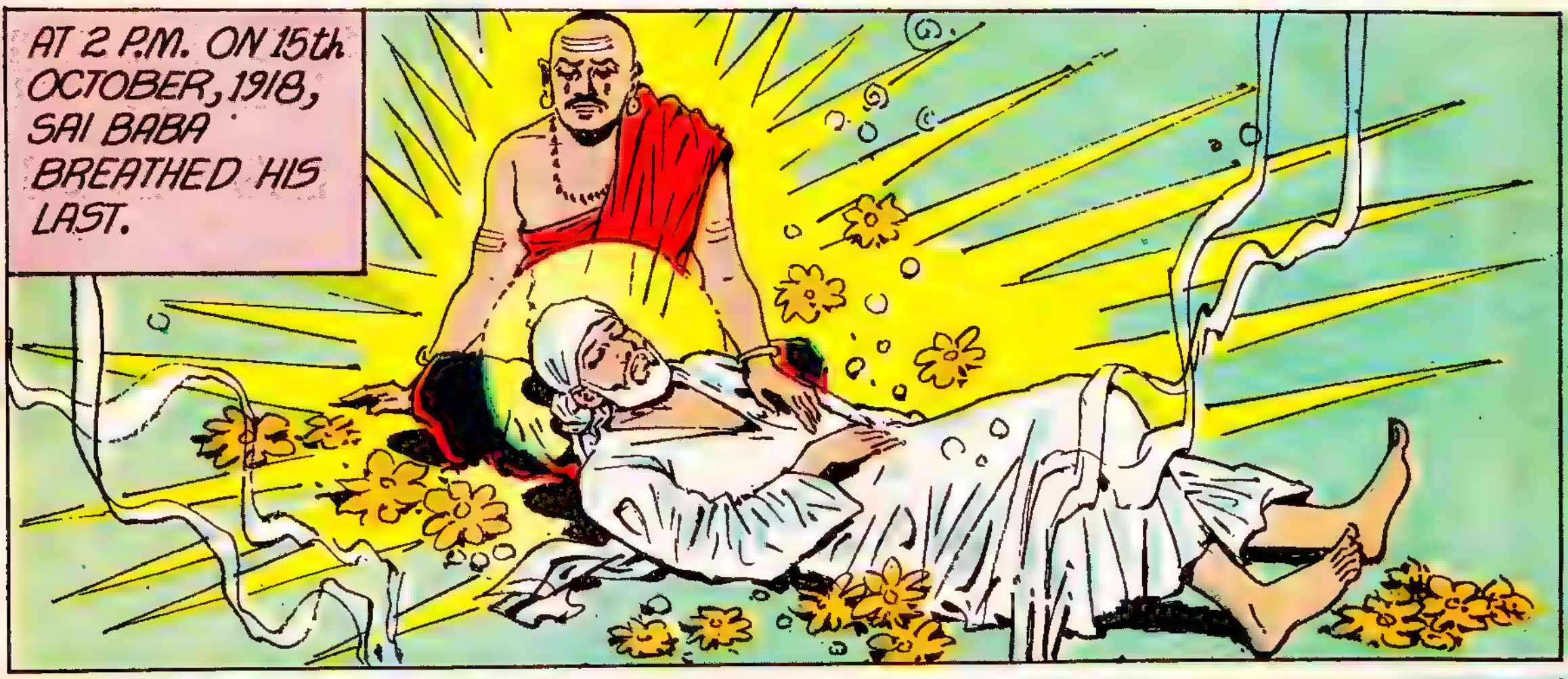
THE DEVOTEES WERE ALL IN TEARS.

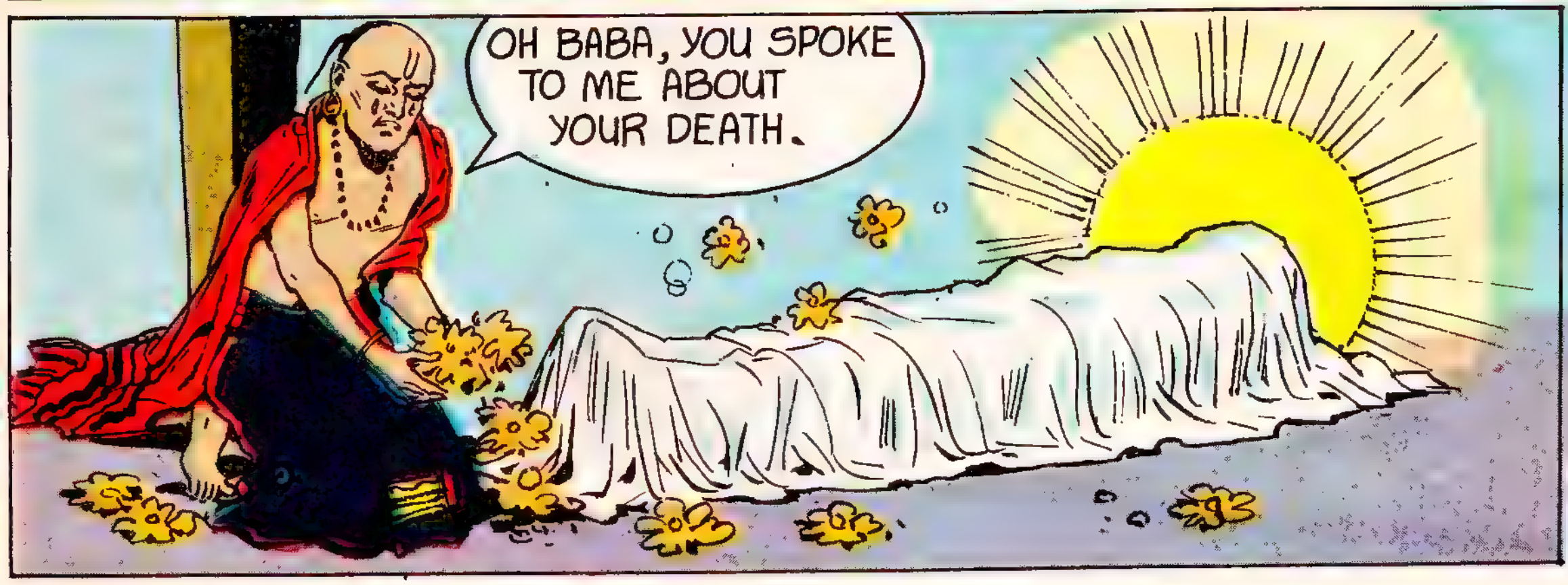
BABA, PLEASE RECOVER.

YOU CURE OUR ILLNESS. WHY DO YOU NOT CURE YOURSELF AND GET UP FOR OUR SAKE ?

WHAT, HAS BABA GIVEN HIS LIFE TO TATYA AND IS HIMSELF DYING? I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!


AT THE SAME TIME, AT PANDARPHUR IN HIS HOUSE DAS GANU, A DEVOTEE OF BABA HAD A VISION–
THE MASJID HAS COLLAPSED. SO, I AM LEAVING THE PLACE. PLEASE GO THERE QUICKLY AND COVER ME WITH FLOWERS.

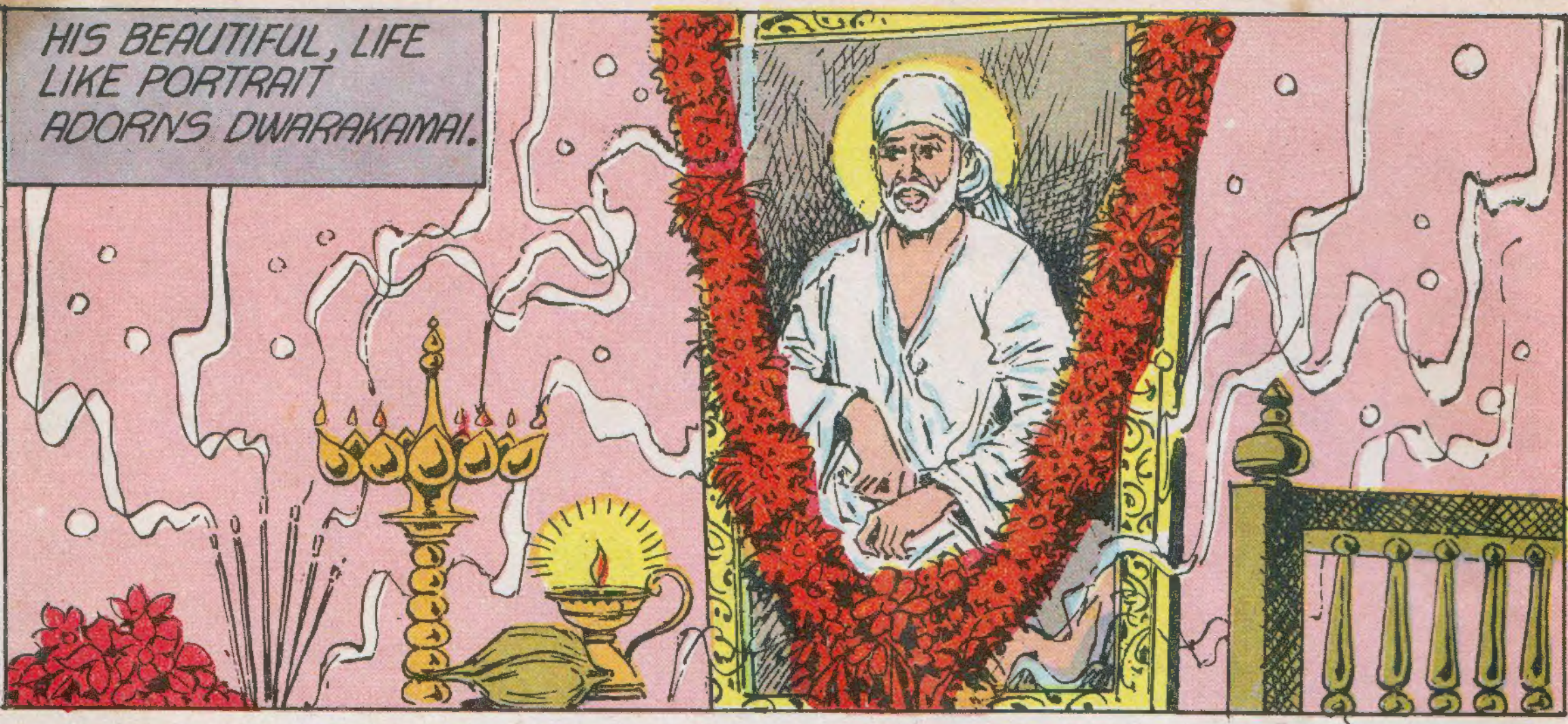

AT 2 P.M. ON 15th OCTOBER, 1918, SAI BABA BREATHED HIS LAST.


OH BABA, YOU SPOKE TO ME ABOUT YOUR DEATH.

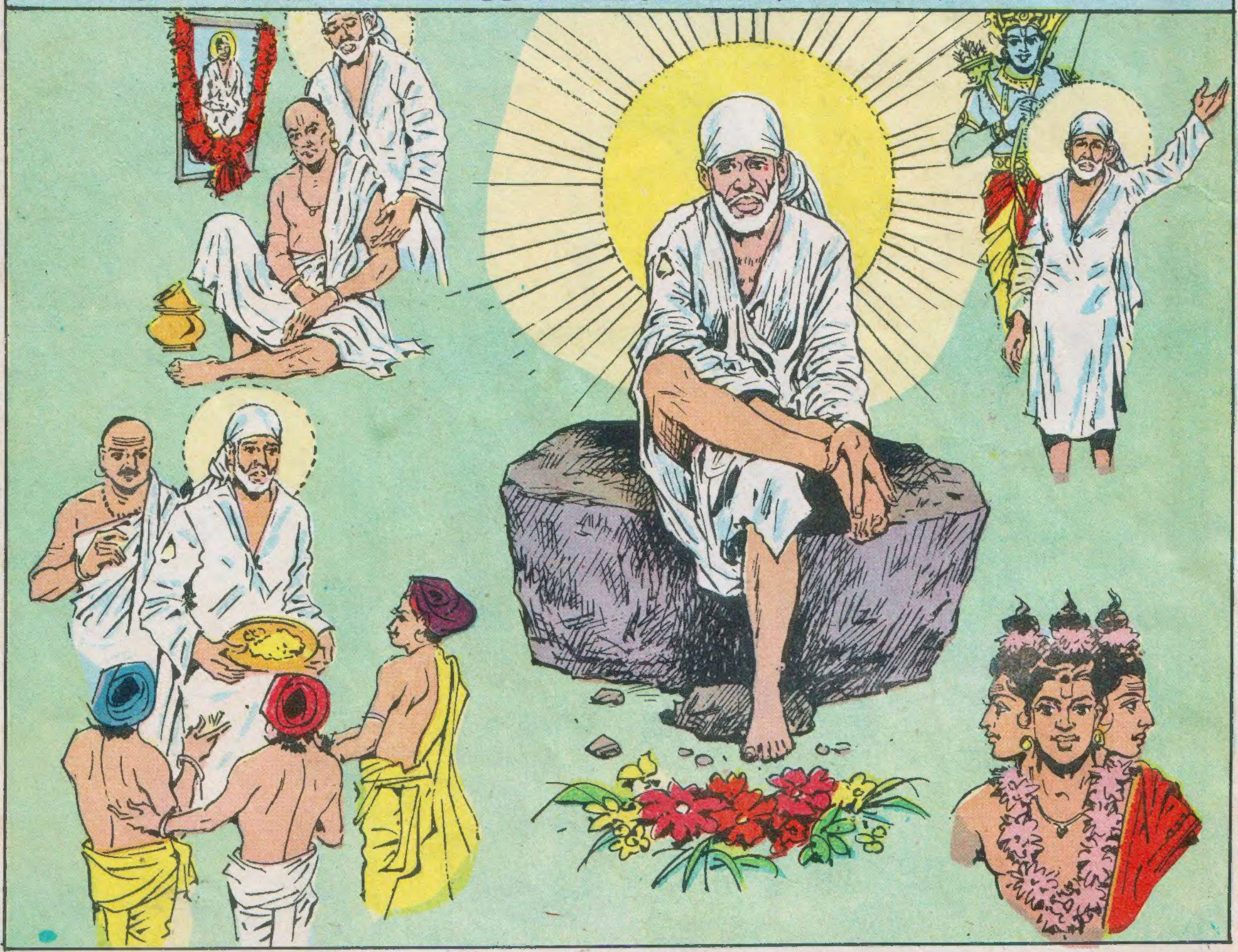
LET THERE BE MASS FEEDING OF THE POOR AS BABA WISHED.

BABA'S BODY WAS TAKEN IN PROCESSION OUT OF DWARAKAMAI. THE DEVOTEES SANG BHAJANS AND KIRTANS AS THEY LAMENTED THE LOSS OF A GOD-MAN.

BABA'S SHRINE IS A LIVING MEMORY OF SRI SAI BABA AT SHIRDI TODAY.



SAINTS LIKE SAI BABA NEVER DIE. THOUGH BABA HAS NO BODY NOW, HE LIVES IN SHIRDI AND EVERYWHERE. TO HIS DEVOTEES, HE IS ETERNAL. HE WILL BLESS THEM AND HELP THEM NOW AND FOREVER.
HE SAID, "I AM EVER LIVING, TO HELP AND GUIDE ALL WHO COME TO ME, WHO SURRENDER TO ME AND WHO SEEK REFUGE IN ME."



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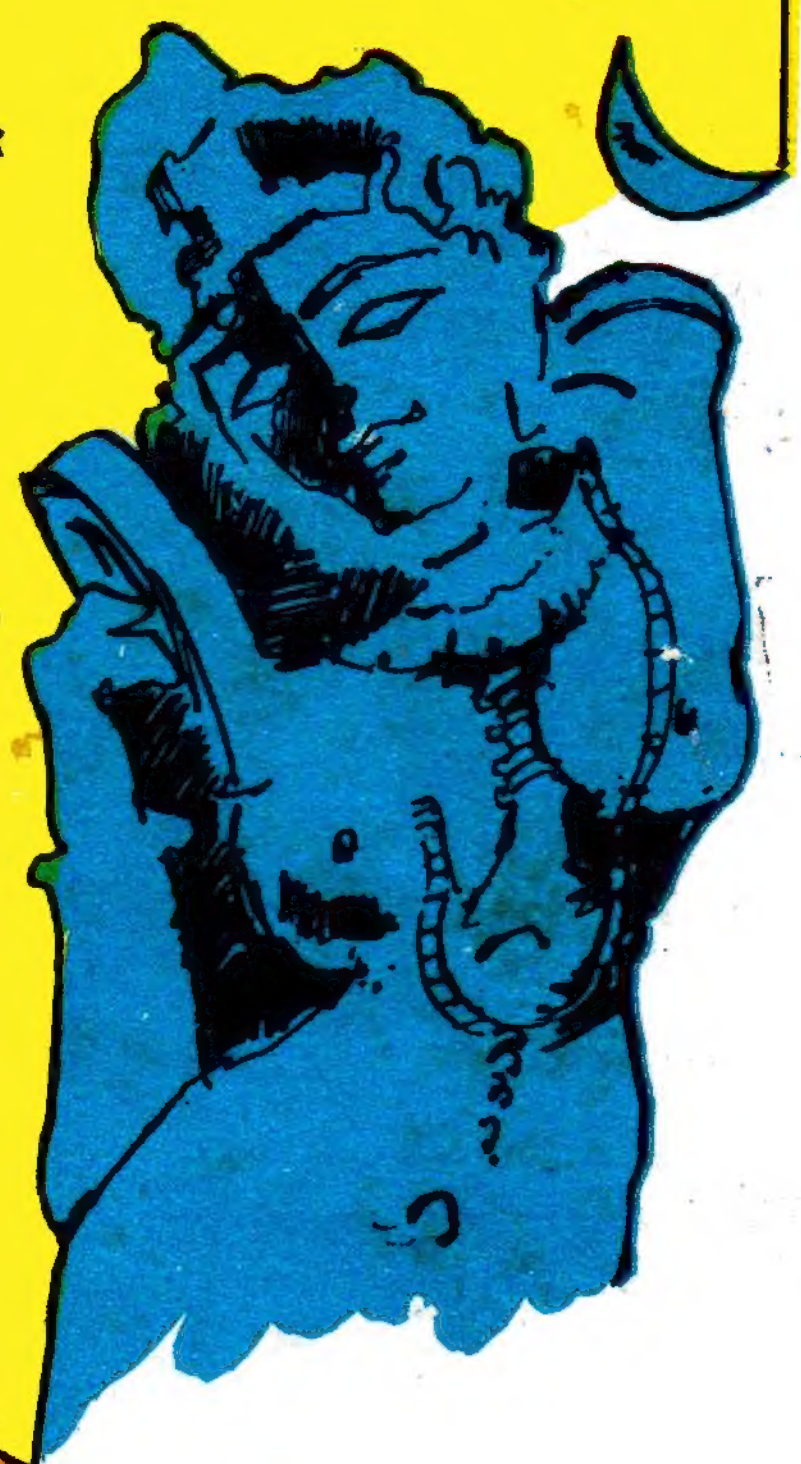

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